

unconcerned about what Canadians think about how it controls money which really belongs to individual Canadians, that it does not believe it is necessary to put forward a plan.

This Government is continuing to create Crown corporations. When you see that Crown corporations now employ more people than Government Departments, you begin to wonder about accountability. Crown corporations are now involved in just about every facet of the lives of individual Canadians. In the eyes of Canadians, some Crown corporations perform admirably, others abysmally.

One Crown corporation which is of great interest to the people in my area is the CNR. Everyone considers it to be independent when it comes to financing.

May I call it one o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

#### AIR CANADA

##### REBATES PROGRAM—AMERICAN CIVIL AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

**Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis):** Madam Speaker, the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board has put on hold the discount program offered by Air Canada. This decision, which came in reaction to other administrative decisions, is very disappointing. Our neighbours to the South have demonstrated how nonchalant they are about Canadian-American relations, as they did earlier on the acid rain issue. We must protest this decision to demonstrate the importance of our relations to our friends in the South and to show that we want to put an end to outdated paternalistic attitudes. I therefore suggest that first of all, Canadians change their plans for 1983-84 and avoid the Southern United States as a winter holiday destination. Second, Canadians planning to visit the beaches in the Eastern United States next summer could visit Canada instead. Third, all Canadians concerned about or by this decision should demonstrate their disapproval by writing to the United States Embassy, 100 Wellington Street in Ottawa, and finally, people should call the U.S. Embassy today or tomorrow (613) 238-5335 to voice their complaints.

[English]

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### DANGERS TO CHILDREN OF EXPOSURE TO LEAD POLLUTION

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills):** Madam Speaker, Canada's laws with respect to the lead tolerance levels in our environment are detrimental to the mental health and well-being of young children who will be our leaders of tomorrow. The available evidence indicates that even low levels of lead exposure can cause irreversible damage to children, since their under-developed brains are particularly vulnerable to these effects. A wide variety of neurological and psychological abnormalities have been reported in recent studies of children exposed to lead. They have included hyperactivity, disturbance of attentional and language functions, and a significantly decreased I.Q. performance.

Leaded gasoline mostly accounts for lead pollution. More than 90 per cent of air-borne lead comes from that source. Yet the regulations brought in by the Liberal Government allow three times more lead in motor gasoline than is allowable in the U.S. In view of the total inaction, and complacency with the status quo on the part of the Liberal Government, let me ask the Liberal policymakers if they have ever considered, in their short-term policies, the future cost of hospitalization, special education for brain-impaired children, lost productivity of adult wage earners and, more significantly, the loss of human potential. It is imperative, Madam Speaker, that we stop the Government's destructive measures which harm our young people, our greatest asset, before they are turned into our greatest liability.

\* \* \*

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### DENIAL OF COMPENSATION TO POLISH PRISONERS OF WAR

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, in 1946 the Government of Canada arranged for the admission of a group of 4,527 Polish war veterans into Canada. These are men who fought side by side with Canadians to keep freedom alive. In 1961 the War Veterans Allowance Act of 1952 was amended and these same Polish veterans were granted the right to be recipients of a War Veterans Allowance.

In 1976 Bill C-92 was introduced, that is, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, to provide compensation to former prisoners of war and escapees. Despite Paragraph 3, which stated that "A prisoner of another power is entitled, on application to the Commission, to compensation", the Polish veterans who qualified as prisoners of war and escapees were eliminated from the benefit because the Act stipulated that domicile in Canada at the time of enlistment was the determining factor in order to receive benefits under the Act.

Since these Poles form a special group of veterans, diverse from others in that they have only one allegiance, Canada, I respectfully suggest that we amend the relevant sections of the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act in order to