

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT MONITORING SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the Minister that a tonne of steel which is produced by a primary producer in Canada creates about eight hours of work, but if it is fabricated it creates about one hour of work. Would the Minister look into the feasibility of establishing a monitoring system, such as the one in the United States, so that we can take action and, in the long run, protect the value of the United States markets, and also protect the Canadian jobs of our primary producers?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as I said in answer to the Hon. Member's first question, I will certainly inquire if any such monitoring is presently done by the Government. If not, I will ask if it would be a desirable thing to do.

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EMPLOYMENT

ABELLA REPORT—ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I also would like to direct a question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

[*Translation*]

The Government's response to the Abella Report as announced last Friday does not contain any specific reinforcement mechanisms. Considering that Judge Abella said in her report that voluntary programs did not produce the desired results, I would like to ask the following question: Is the Minister prepared to inform the House today that she will set up a reinforcement agency to ensure that inequities suffered by the four groups mentioned in the Abella Report will indeed be corrected?

[*English*]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has yet to understand the statement which was made on Friday. As I said at that time, it is not voluntary, it is mandatory. By legislation, companies will be required to report annually on their employment equity plans. By legislation, they will be asked to gather this material and put in data systems. Crown corporations will be required to submit the same information annually. Companies doing business with the Government will be required to submit their reporting on employment equity, and if they do not meet the goals which they set for themselves, they will lose the right to contract. That is not voluntary. That is mandatory.

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Minister understood the question. She spoke about the fact that it is now mandatory for them to report to Parliament. My question concerned an enforcement agency.

Judge Abella said in her report that there had to be an enforcement agency and that a voluntary method of reporting would not work. Can the Minister now announce that there will be some enforcement agency in order that there can be equality for the four groups which were mentioned in Judge Abella's report? Without that, it does not work.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, again the Hon. Member does not understand. In her comments, Judge Abella welcomed what the Government had done. I think she was surprised that we had moved so quickly and seriously in implementing the recommendations which she had made. Nevertheless, I would tell the Hon. Member that if he looked at the human rights legislation he would see that the Human Rights Commission can initiate action if it feels there are shortcomings as a result of this information being tabled in Parliament and being made public, so that it will have some basis on which to work. It has not had that up until now.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FRESHWATER SALE INQUIRY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. I would like to ask him whether he supports the readiness which was expressed by his leader, as reported in *Fortune* magazine, namely, that he is prepared to sell Canada's supply of freshwater to the highest bidder, notwithstanding the warnings which were issued last summer by the federal water policy inquiry when it said that in parts of Canada we are already reaching the limits of supply.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have not read the article to which the Hon. Member refers.

NIAGARA RIVER POLLUTION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Well, Canadians will have to wait and see if they receive a clear signal from Cabinet.

Again, I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, in relation to the meeting which will take place in Quebec city next Sunday and Monday, whether he will ensure that the serious matter of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario water deterioration, which will be placed in a basin where there are five million people who are likely to face water shortages in a decade or two if toxic contamination is not eliminated, will be on the agenda?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter raised by the Hon. Member and make every effort to ensure that it is given the appropriate consideration.