

Oral Questions

So the water radiation is safe. However, we are conducting further tests and we will keep the Hon. Member informed.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSCANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—EMPLOYMENT OF
MICHAEL DEEVER AS LOBBYIST

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Many Canadians are becoming increasingly concerned about the embroilment of the Canadian Government in the impending investigations and, in fact, in the scandal associated with Mr. Michael Deaver who is a former counsel in the White House. I think that part of the problem has been confusing and contradictory information. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs supply information to Parliament—not down south—regarding the report released today from the General Accounting Office which confirms that Mr. Fred Doucet of the Prime Minister's Office was the gentleman in question who raised the question of the employment of Mr. Deaver by the Canadian Government—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a bit long, I think. Is that the Hon. Member's question?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I was asking a question. I would like to continue.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: Was it Mr. Doucet of the Prime Minister's Office who raised the question with Mr. Deaver concerning his potential employment with the Canadian Government?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know who raised that question; but I know when it was raised. It was raised after Mr. Deaver left the White House.

Mr. Broadbent: How do you know that if you don't know who raised it?

LETTER ISSUED BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, that is right. We now have another example of a clear answer.

When the Canadian Ambassador to Washington referred to the fact that a senior official of the Government raised the question of employment prior to Mr. Deaver leaving the White House, was that senior official Mr. Doucet of the Prime Minister's Office?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, most things the Hon. Member does are inadvertent, so I assume that his twisting of the facts is

inadvertent. The letter issued by Ambassador Gotlieb indicated that a Canadian official made a comment in a light-hearted way to Mr. Deaver. That official was Doctor Doucet.

Mr. Axworthy: That is what we wanted to know.

* * *

SEARCH AND RESCUE

ENDING OF ONTARIO SEARCH—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister either in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister or as Minister of National Defence. Will the Minister order an investigation into the search and rescue efforts which took place last November in seeking two people who apparently lived for a number of days after rescue efforts had been abandoned?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there has been a preliminary investigation conducted already. It is being carried on in some depth in an effort to try to answer these questions.

CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, will the Deputy Prime Minister or the Associate Minister of National Defence not only table in the House the results of that investigation, but will they also look into the co-ordinated efforts of Search and Rescue between the various component parts of such an effort? Will they table in the House the clear method used by the various groups which take part, who was in charge, and who makes the decisions as to if, as, and when an effort should be abandoned?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a great many questions. I am quite prepared to answer them in the appropriate forum on an appropriate occasion. The Hon. Member could write or come to committee when we are discussing Estimates and talk about the matter. However, he is asking me to table something on the assumption that there is some sort of document which will contain all of the information. I am not sure that that type of document is available in the form that he would like. There is no desire on our part to hold back any of the information which the Hon. Member seeks.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED INFLOW OF DIOXIN TO NIAGARA RIVER

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. There was a report this