

### Oral Questions

How dare this man, a senior public servant, insult the very people his agency was created to assist. The president of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency has little to be proud of, given ACOA's record of handing out money to losing ventures.

The President of ACOA blames bad weather for Cape Breton's falling economy. The economic cloud that hangs over the island has more to do with all his agency's failures than it does with our region's level of rainfall.

I think it is time that this particular senior public servant resign and, if not resign, the minister responsible for ACOA should fire him and fire him—

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#### SENATOR CLAUDE CASTONGUAY

**Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, as a member of the special joint committee on a renewed Canada, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Senator Claude Castonguay for his role as co-chair during the first few months of the committee's mandate.

Senator Castonguay is a valuable representative of Quebec and is widely respected not only in his home province but throughout Canada. He has been a key member of the constitutional committee and his positive contributions will be greatly missed.

I join with other members of Parliament and of the Senate in wishing him a quick recovery.

[Translation]

—and the hope that in spite of his involuntary absence, we will be able to continue to benefit from his sage advice.

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[English]

#### DRIFT-NETTING

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, we welcome the news that Japan has agreed to comply by the end of 1992 with a United Nations moratorium on the use of huge fishing nets known as drift-nets. This is an abhorrent practice which ravages the oceans. These vast nets are known as walls of death because they trap and kill in vast numbers, dolphins, whales, turtles, birds and other marine life.

Drift-netting continues still to be practised by South Korea. We urge the Government of Canada to make

special representations to our embassy in Seoul, urging South Korea to comply with the moratorium and behave in an environmentally responsible manner.

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#### NAGORNO-KARABAKH

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville):** Mr. Speaker, last evening Soviet television announced that the Parliament of Azerbaijan today decided to abolish the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh and also change the name of the regional centre.

Tass News Agency reported that the Azeri deputies backed this measure unanimously. Nearly 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands forced from their homes in almost four years of guerrilla fighting. The move to abolish Nagorno-Karabakh is sure to ignite further violence and bloodshed.

I call upon my government and the United Nations to condemn this latest decision by the Parliament of Azerbaijan aggressively.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### THE CONSTITUTION

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

This morning every newspaper in the country reports that bowing to internal and external pressures the government has decided that it will not bring forward legislation on a national referendum.

• (1420)

Can the minister explain why it is okay to consult Quebecers on their constitutional future, but it is not okay to consult the Canadian population on its?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne the government very clearly made a commitment, and I quote the Governor General: