

the train and wait two to four hours to leave, and then perhaps complete the trip by bus; stay hungry but healthy by avoiding the food. Then hear the answer to your complaints by the enlightened management of VIA Rail—cut costs by eliminating trains which are, after all, now “only lightly used”.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY ON CRUISE MISSILE TESTS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, what a sorry state the Liberal Party finds itself in with no clear policy stance on anything and no direction from its Leader. At no time has this been more evident than yesterday when this House voted on a matter of international importance, an issue which required a clear Canadian statement, and the Liberals were unable to present the public with a policy. They were even unable to agree within their own Party.

● (1410)

In the vote yesterday, four Liberal Members opposed the so-called official Party stance. But the House and Canadians know that there are others within their ranks who are at odds with their party policy.

With all this confusion the Liberals have begun to resemble a horse with two heads, tearing at its middle in an attempt to run off in every direction.

To top it all off, for a decision as significant to the nation as was made here yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) was not even present to stand in his own line of fire.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS—PRE-NOTIFICATION OF MINISTER'S OFFICE

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mrs. Vezina) has an internal document in her Department that requires all federal contracts over \$25,000 in six eastern Quebec ridings to be reported to her office for announcing purposes. One of these ridings is her own and one is that of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). But the document also asks for all information at least 48 hours in advance.

It goes on to say: “If no response is heard from the Corporate Relations Board”, which is her officials, “—award can proceed in the normal fashion”. This smacks of political interference. It goes on to say: “If there are inquiries and a request is made to delay the award, the responsible procurement officer shall inform management immediately of the situation”. We know that the Prime Minister wants to make

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many announcements these days, but the truth of the matter is that this political meddling system that has been set up by the Minister of Supply and Services has nothing to do with regional economic disparity but a lot to do with the regional political disparity of the Government.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—SIGNING OF ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, the signing of an abatement agreement this morning between the Canadian Government and the Province of Ontario is more solid progress in the fight against acid rain.

In 1984, when our Government took office, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made the clean-up of the environment and acid rain in particular a top priority. For the first time ever, the problem was discussed face to face by a Canadian Prime Minister and the President of the United States. Essential to our getting the U.S. to take action was the need to get our own house in order by reducing our own acid rain emissions.

In 1985 the seven provinces east of Saskatchewan agreed orally to cut acid rain emissions in half by 1994. Today and yesterday, formal agreements to that effect were signed with Ontario, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. Hopefully all seven provinces will sign before the April meeting between the Prime Minister and President Reagan so that we can show that Canada is united in the battle to eliminate the environmental scourge of acid rain.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

THE CONSTITUTION—ALLEGED POSITION OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have with me a policy memo of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs in Ontario which I feel all aboriginal people in Canada would be interested in. The briefing paper states that Ontario's position in the upcoming First Ministers' Conference should: “—oppose any suggestion that Indian treaties are nation-to-nation agreements or that aboriginal peoples retain any element of sovereignty or inherent rights implicit in the treaty approach”.

The Leader of the federal Liberal Party (Mr. Turner) should refute that position and state publicly that the Liberal Party does recognize that Indian treaties provide inherent rights.