

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE FRENCH FACT

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Madam Speaker, today I would like to draw the attention of the House to what Troy Davidson, a young anglophone 16 year-old from Toronto, Ontario, Troy Davidson, from Toronto, did to promote the French fact in Canada. He got 140 students at his school to sign a petition defending the French fact in this country.

Mr. Saint-Julien: Hear, hear!

Mr. Desjardins: Troy explained that he was concerned about the unity of this country and that he sincerely believes French culture is an asset to Canada.

In the midst of the current language controversy, I think it is edifying and encouraging to see young Canadians stand up and speak out to defend this country's identity. It is unfortunate that certain leaders and individuals have abdicated their responsibility to work to support the unity of this country, but it is also both comforting and stimulating to see and hear young people who are prepared to stand up for the rights of minorities.

Mr. Saint-Julien: Three cheers for Canada's youth!

Mr. Desjardins: Bravo, Troy, for this show of leadership!

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[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, my concern is with the Sydney Tar Ponds clean-up project in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The Ministry of the Environment initiated the formation of a citizens' monitoring committee, following widely expressed concerns by both Sysco workers and the community that the preliminary environmental screening report was not detailed enough to be accurate.

These concerns grew out of the deep familiarity of the workers for the substances to be uncovered in the Muggah Creek site and the inexplicably high incidence of cancer mortality rates in the area. In fact, the committee has presented a recommendation to the minister that the

survey was not sufficiently detailed and has requested a full panel review under the EARP guidelines.

The over-riding concern is that the dredging plans remain vague and do not allow for the hazard of the exposure of emissions of carcinogenic gasses like naphthalene. The committee report recognizes that "excavation will allow for the release of such gasses into the air".

A second major concern is that proposals for the dispersal of contaminated waste are inadequate and will result in the leaching of toxic substances such as lead, mercury, and zinc into the groundwater and into Sydney harbour.

The urgent nature of the committee's recommendations deserve a prompt response by the minister. The health and environment of the Sydney are at stake. Act now!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Many Canadians got the impression from listening to the Prime Minister's speech on television last week that he agreed with the concerns Premier McKenna had expressed, concerns which Premier McKenna felt should be contained in a companion resolution to the 1987 constitutional amendment.

Speaking in Toronto on Friday, the Prime Minister said, and I quote: "I didn't endorse McKenna's proposals. I've been trying to tell you that. The reference to a committee does not mean the acceptance of each of the items in the resolution".

Can the Prime Minister clarify for Canadians just what his views are on the items contained in Premier McKenna's proposal?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that my hon. friend needs any clarification because I had sent him, prior to delivering the speech on television, a copy of my remarks in which I said: