

Oral Questions

Investment Canada officials, it is up to them to provide the answer sought by the Hon. Member, not to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**IRAN—ARREST OF CANADIAN ENGINEER**

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Minister will know that last Wednesday a Canadian engineer by the name of Philip Eng was arrested by the Iranian Revolutionary Court. Nothing has been heard of him since. Will he advise the House whether or not the Government knows what the charges are against Mr. Eng and what steps it is taking to protect his interest?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, let me thank the Hon. Member for bringing that question to my attention and that of my officials over the weekend. We are seeking answers to precisely the questions that the Hon. Member raised. We do not have them yet. We are using every means available to us, both through the Danish Embassy which works on our behalf in Iran, and through other avenues. As soon as we have that information we will make it available to the Hon. Member.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF ENERGY**

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns statements made by the United States Secretary of Energy, Mr. Herrington, with respect to the American commitment to the program that resulted from the envoy process on acid rain. Has the Government investigated Mr. Herrington's reference to a meeting of Canadian officials that led him to believe Canada would accept a smaller program? Has the Government made it absolutely clear to the United States that no scaled down version of the already inadequate program that came out of the envoy process will be acceptable?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Environment, who was at this meeting, replied publicly to this question by saying that the Government of Canada expected that the United States would keep to their commitments.

Second, the next day, Mr. Herrington himself told the American press that the quote which had been attributed to him did not correspond to what he had said at the press conference.

[English]

FUNDING OF CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources met with Mr. Herrington. Did he get commitments from the U.S. administration, through Mr. Herrington, that new money would be spent on clean coal technology, not money that was already spent and authorized by Congress prior to the envoy report? Has a commitment of new money been made, and when will we see it?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have met with the Secretary of Energy. I have told him about the views of the Canadian Government in these matters, and I can assure the Hon. Member that, as far as the Canadian Minister is concerned, money is always money. There is no such thing as new money and old money.

[English]

Money is money, and the American Government is committed to ensure that it will stick to its own report.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**EARLY RETIREES—CALCULATION OF PENSION AS INCOME**

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. We have re-examined the Minister's Friday statement with respect to the unemployment insurance cuts for pre-retirement pensioners. We find that it does absolutely nothing for those Canadians who were obliged or were pushed to take pre-retirement pensions but have not been able to find jobs. Since approximately 75,000 Canadians have paid into the unemployment insurance fund for many years and are still looking for work, why should they wait for a second job and a second lay-off to collect their legitimate unemployment insurance benefits? Even Forget recommended that that policy be withdrawn.

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I trust that I did not understand the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce asking for implementation of the Forget Report. That is a first point.

Second—

An Hon. Member: Ha! Ha!