

Ontario tobacco marketing board and, by the way, a number of them were on the tour and meeting with me to view the damage in the area.

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POLLUTION

LAKE WINNIPEG—INABILITY OF MANITOBA TO PROSECUTE CERTAIN FIRMS BECAUSE OF LACK OF AGREEMENT ON WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the ruling a few days ago by a judge in Winnipeg that two chemical firms accused of contributing to the mercury pollution of Lake Winnipeg could not be prosecuted, in part because the relevant sections of the Canada Water Act have not been brought into force, does the minister intend to bring these sections into force in the near future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask a supplementary question. I am not sure whether his question was noted.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Minister of the Environment was listening to my question. Perhaps I could rephrase it. In view of the failure of the Manitoba government in its attempt to prosecute firms allegedly contributing to mercury pollution in Lake Winnipeg because a judge has said that no agreement designating water quality management areas has yet been entered into by the government of Canada with the province, does the minister intend to negotiate such an agreement in the very near future?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, these agreements depend not only on the initiative of the federal government but on the willingness of the provinces concerned to enter into such agreements. I have detected no such willingness on the part of Manitoba, for example. I might add parenthetically that had the Fisheries Act as now amended been enforced at the time of that spill—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is in the realm of debate.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of the Environment how many water quality management areas have been set up in Canada in the more than two years since the act was passed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question should be placed on the order paper.

Inquiries of the Ministry

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GROUNDS FOR TEMPORARY RELEASE OF CHARLES DAVID HEAD FROM PENITENTIARY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Justice. I refer to the question I asked yesterday as recorded at page 3291 of *Hansard*. My question was as follows:

Would the minister make a full statement on motions in reference to the granting of the temporary release, indicating whether there was any supervision after the man was released and also setting out the rules, the law and the grounds by virtue of which this person was released in those circumstances?

I was asking for the ground rules applied in the case of temporary release. The Solicitor General answered:

Mr. Speaker, I do not see any reason why I should comment on the private life of an individual at this time.

Subsequently the minister mentioned on television the history and criminal record of a certain person. In view of the fact that he said there was no question of this man getting a life sentence, I should like the Attorney General of Canada to check a report which appeared back in 1967 in a newspaper in Vancouver which stated that this man received a life sentence from Mr. Justice Gregory.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should attempt to ask a question. I suggest, with respect, to the hon. member that the question might be put more briefly.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I respect your ruling, but if I do not give the minister the facts he is not able to answer. I would ask him to check the record, in view of the fact the Solicitor General made a statement outside the House which he would not make here, in order to determine whether the man in question did in fact receive a life sentence at that time.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that on an appropriate occasion after the Solicitor General has ascertained the facts in regard to the situation he may make a report to the House. In the meantime, I must say I am not helped much by the hon. member's usual combination of accusations and garbling of the facts.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: I see the hon. member for Calgary South laughing. He had a lot to say the other day. But let me put these facts to the Minister of Justice, because he appreciates that criminal records are confidential and are available only to the police or to the minister. I ask him whether—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. He was recognized for the purpose of asking a question. I did not gather that this was what he was doing but as I was rising he was asking a question and he may proceed.

Mr. Woolliams: Thank you for your help, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the Solicitor General gave facts outside the House which are available only to himself, will the