

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, if the problems alleged by the Hon. Member are more than normal problems of maintenance, I will obviously want to find out why.

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DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

INJURIES CAUSED BY SOFT DRINK BOTTLES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Four years ago the Government banned the use of 1.5 litre pop bottles after reports of widespread injuries, including several children who lost their eyes. Although the injury record of 750 millilitre bottles was just as bad, no similar action was taken whatsoever, with the result of some 300 injuries reported since then. Now that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has met with the industry, what action will the Government finally take to ban the use of these dangerous bottles or, at the very least, to impose the same standards on these bottles as it earlier imposed on the 1.5 litre bottles?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is aware that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs met with representatives of the industry on Friday. While I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with her, I am sure he is also aware of press reports stating that the industry is prepared to conduct an advertising campaign to make consumers aware of the dangers of these bottles. Furthermore, I think he will understand that there was tremendous concern over the previous ban in that it imposed tremendous costs on the industry. Apparently studies have indicated that the costs of such a ban on the 750 millilitre bottle would be prohibitive. I think he should take these arguments into consideration.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): The Minister admits that the bottles are a hazard, yet all she is doing is sweet-talking the industry into some sort of PR campaign.

REQUEST THAT BOTTLES BE PLASTIC COATED

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that the industry has a plastic bottle coating plant in Ontario which has been sitting idle since January of this year, why does the Government not use its power effectively to ban these bottles or, at the very least, require that they be coated as the 1.5 litre bottles were coated, and stop mimicking the industry in claiming it costs too much? What is the cost of an eye or arm to a family whose child is hurt by these bottles?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I do not think it is correct to characterize the Minister's action as sweet-talking. However, we are accustomed to that kind of

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hyperbole on the part of the Hon. Member. The suggestion he makes is one of those which, I understand, is being considered by the Minister and the industry.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burnaby.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

PROMISE OF NEW STANDARDS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, three years ago the industry promised new standards for this bottle, yet it has done absolutely nothing. How many more children will have to lose their eyes or arms before these dangerous bottles, one of which I will—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member knows that he is not to exhibit any object in the House. I would urge him to do away with that object. The Hon. Member for Burnaby.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): I will certainly send a sample bottle to the Prime Minister—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Madam Speaker: Order. Will the Hon. Member please resume his seat? The Hon. Member for York-Peel.

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● (1450)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FRANCE—FURNISHING OF JET FIGHTERS TO IRAQ

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for External Relations. Would the Minister indicate whether the Government of Canada has warned France of the danger of furnishing advanced jet fighters to Iraq, as have the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the West German Republic, and many of the Gulf nations themselves?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of State (External Relations)): Madam Speaker, we are quite aware of the fact that the provision of those planes to Iraq may cause greater tension between Iraq and Iran, but we have made no formal representation, to my knowledge, to the French Government on this matter.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO FRANCE

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of State for External Relations. Surely he will agree this is perhaps the most delicate region in the world today. Would the Minister at least