

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Hon. Member to refer to the foreword contained in the paper, and to page 33 of the said paper in which it is set out that the consultations may move ahead on Canada-U.S. trade in advance of talks and discussions on the Green Paper. However, I would also remind the Hon. Member that the Green Paper speaks to more than just Canada-U.S. trade. It speaks to the whole matter of world and multilateral trade negotiations.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

GREAT LAKES POLLUTION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister will be aware of reports by her own Department which show that pollution in the Great Lakes is much worse than we thought it was, and even then it was bad. Could the Minister tell the House what plans she has to accelerate the process by which the Great Lakes and the Niagara River, in particular, can be cleaned up? Will she be making any special representations, as of now, with this new knowledge, to the United States to have the \$150 million which was cancelled for sewage treatment restored, and on various other things which the Americans could be doing to get serious about cleaning up this important environmental problem?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member of the New Democratic Party for his question. He will be glad to hear this has already been done. I handed over the figures myself in Washington last week, and the result is that planning for the Niagara River clean-up is being accelerated.

[English]

HERRING-GULL EGG PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, we are aware that we have a promise of a plan by the fall, not a promise of action. So that the Minister is better able to ensure that that plan is translated into action soon, will she undertake to reinstate fully, not partially, not one out of six, the herring-gull egg program which she cancelled last fall and which has made our credibility on Great Lakes pollution weaker than it has to be?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we must see the question in its current context. It is being said that pollution in the Niagara River has increased, but we must not forget that under the previous Government, only two types of effluents were analyzed, the industrial and municipal type. We are now analysing many

Oral Questions

more kinds of effluents using far more sophisticated techniques, and now we must find out whether there really has been an increase. If so, we shall certainly inform our U.S. colleagues accordingly.

* * *

CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Finance).

Considering recent bank failures and bearing in mind that since 1983, bank deposits have been guaranteed up to a maximum of \$60,000, and considering the inflation factor, does the Minister intend to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act to enable the Corporation to guarantee deposits up to a maximum of \$100,000?

[English]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. As I have pointed out to the House on previous occasions, we have undertaken a full study of deposit insurance and financial institutions. We are taking all suggestions into account, in order to ensure the best possible and most stable financial systems for depositors.

* * *

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. One of the more profound statements in yesterday's Green Paper was that all industrialized nations saw technology and innovation as the most critical elements in today's economic equation. This harkens back to the statement made by the Prime Minister in February, 1984, that we have to double our R and D commitment and triple our resolve to reach it. However, yesterday the Minister of State for Science and Technology said that the Government would not keep its promise. In a masterful display of doublespeak, he said that a promise had now become a distant goal.

When will the Ministers of the Government stop mouthing meaningless platitudes and fulfil the promises which they made to Canadian people? Does the Deputy Prime Minister agree with his Minister that a promise is not a promise when it is a goal?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): When you cut through, Sir, all these questions that have been asked today concerning the subject matter of the Green Paper, you are forced by logic to come up with only one conclusion. For instance, the Hon. Member for