

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I agree that it is very important for the Minister of the Environment and other Ministers to go down to the United States to plead Canada's case in the United States. I have done that more often in 12 months than any previous Minister of the Environment has done in 12 years.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Gilbert Clements, Minister of Finance for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## TRADE

## EXPORT OF HELICOPTER PARTS TO IRAN

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. There is increasing concern that our export control policy may be dictated by Washington. In January of last year, as the Deputy Prime Minister properly pointed out, export permission was refused for T-400 engine parts being shipped to Tehran. In September, the U.S. Department of Commerce authorized United Technologies to authorize Pratt & Whitney Canada to ship helicopter parts to Tehran. During the same month export permission was granted. During that period of time were there representations made by the U.S. administration to the Canadian Government to relax or set aside our export control policy?

● (1430)

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the reason that that process took place is because the assemblies in question had a U.S. component for which an export control permit was sought. Because the assemblies in this particular case were used for civilian commercial use, no permit was required.

## MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister tells us that they were used for civilian purposes, something which I do not think we know yet from the evidence. That being said, the control policy itself provides that there will be ministerial consultation when

any component could have a military or civilian application. Was there such ministerial consultation? What evidence did the Minister in question look at that satisfied him that it was for civilian application only?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House yesterday, we were assured by Pratt & Whitney that the parts in question were for civilian commercial use. That undertaking was reaffirmed in a letter to the Canadian Government. Furthermore, on September 10 the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced a new export control policy and drew attention to the fact that the area of helicopters is one that provides some difficulty because of the interchangability of the use of helicopters from commercial to military service. As a result, the Minister drew that question to our attention. It is a matter which is being considered currently by Cabinet. If there is to be any change in that policy it will be announced in due course.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## DETROIT CONFERENCE ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY—CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. The fact remains that at a major conference at which issues of Great Lakes water quality were being discussed there was an empty chair in which a Canadian should have sat. Why did the Minister, or the officials in his Department, allow such a deplorable image to be created, that of an empty chair in which a Canadian should have sat? Never mind who attended the conference, the fact remains that beside the Canadian flag at an important panel discussion there was an empty chair. Why did the Minister allow that to happen?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I repeat, the Government of Canada was represented officially by the seven top experts on Great Lakes water pollution in the country: Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Regional Director General of Ontario; Dr. James Kingham, Director General of Great Lakes Programs; Dr. Ron Shimizu, Corporate Adviser on the Great Lakes, and four others. There was no empty chair.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Where was the Government of Canada?

**Mr. McMillan:** There was a Canadian flag and sitting behind that flag were seven of the top experts on Great Lakes water pollution in the entire Dominion of Canada.