

### Oral Questions

[Translation]

ACID RAIN—ALLEGED POSITION OF U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Secretary of Energy has stated that acid rain is not a near term emergency. Those were his very words. In case the Prime Minister did not know, the Secretary was referring to a Bill sponsored by 163 Members of the U.S. Congress and now before Congress. Could the Prime Minister explain why the follow-up to the Washington Summit is so deplorable that the U.S. Secretary of Energy is now denying that acid rain is a serious problem?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States said personally that the acid rain issue was a major priority for him and his administration. Agreements were concluded in this respect. Funds have been earmarked. It is up to the Americans to see to it that their commitments with respect to acid rain are fully met. As far as we are concerned, this Government is the first national Government to conclude such agreements. We have concluded agreements with the provinces, and for the first time, as far as I know, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, there has been tangible progress in the very important and vital area of acid rain. There will be a clean-up in Canada.

[English]

POSITION OF UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I refer again to the sparse text of this official document which is 75 per cent photographs. The document says that the House of Representatives is considering a control Bill that has, for the first time, broad support. That is the very Bill being opposed by the Secretary of Energy of the United States. Can the Prime Minister explain why the White House, through the Secretary of Energy, is now opposing the Bill which the document indicates has wide support from the White House?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have a complete and formal undertaking from the Government of the United States of America, executed by the President of the United States, in favour of the position which was set forward in March.

**Mr. Tobin:** Is that the same one we had on cedar shakes?

**Mr. Mulroney:** It is an important position. It recognizes the transboundary nature of the problem for the first time. It commits substantial funds to working in harmony with Canada in the progress that we have made in eliminating once and for all, albeit not overnight, the debilitating problem of acid rain which has caused so much damage, not only to our environment but to our economy. This Government took the matter seriously. We have persuaded the U.S. administration of the seriousness of the problem, and together we are going to solve it.

● (1430)

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S PUBLICATION *CANADA TODAY*

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns government waste and abuse of power by the Prime Minister and his Government. The latest issue of the magazine *Canada Today* includes such fine words as "the feeding schedules of participants in international meetings are as rigid as those of babies of up-to-date mothers in 1935." Can the Prime Minister tell us why Canadian taxpayers should be paying for 17 photos of him in a 16-page magazine? Why is he wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars to publish this kind of nonsense? Does he feel that taxpayers in these difficult economic times should be paying for this kind of extravagance?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the only unanswered question there is what is the feeding schedule of the Hon. Member? That is an important question. I have not seen this document. We have a hundred—

**Mr. Gauthier:** How is your smell today?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Smell? My smell is pretty good. I can smell a rat and I'm looking right at one.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary question.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, my feeding schedule is probably a lot cheaper for the taxpayers than the Prime Minister's.

**Mr. McDermid:** Show us your *Householder*.

**Mr. Boudria:** I have a supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member should put his question, please.

### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, how can a Government call on the nation to restrain itself and be more realistic in its collective demands upon the economy when its own record is an unbroken string of fiscal excesses?

**Mr. Marchi:** Where he stood.

**Mr. Boudria:** *Where I Stand*, it says.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the book *Where I Stand* was a best seller in 1983. It probably will be a best seller forever; it is a great book and I urge you to go out and get it. Send copies to everyone, particularly the Liberal Party, because discretionary public expenditures in Canada, when the Right Hon. Leader of the