

Oral Questions

In the specific case of the Gaz Métropolitain exports, those small amounts are simply a continuation of the practices which have been in place for some time and are merely to maintain the levels of exports which have been committed and which have been surplus to Canadian requirements.

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THE ENVIRONMENT**SUCCESS OF ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN RESPECTING EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN**

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. Given the fact that a large portion of the acid rain falling on Canada comes from emissions in the American mid-west and that the minister has signed a memorandum of intent with the United States and has initiated an advertising campaign directed at American tourists visiting Canada, can the minister indicate to the House whether Canada is achieving any success in reaching and convincing United States officials of the danger of acid rain fallout on Canada originating in the United States?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Yes, Madam Speaker. I believe we are having some success, although obviously much work still remains to be done. I was very pleased to see recently, for instance, a letter of support signed by some 90 United States Congressmen indicating their concern about acid rain problems and their desire to support our views in this matter. I think that letter probably was an outcome of the visit to Washington of the subcommittee of the House of Commons dealing with acid rain chaired by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie. I very much welcome the efforts of the subcommittee and the positive result they have had in this case.

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THE CONSTITUTION**PROPOSED RESOLUTION—STATUS OF YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. At all the first ministers' meetings called to discuss the constitution, the northern territories of Yukon and Northwest Territories have been refused the right to speak for themselves. Now, through the hideous use of closure, the government insists that I also be presented from being heard on northern constitutional issues. It seems the government just does not want to hear anybody from that part of the country.

Who does the Prime Minister insist on entrenching and enshrining in the constitution—and believe me, this is what is going to happen under clause 29(1)(a)—the continued colonial status of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, thereby dashing the hope that they ever will achieve provincial status?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that there is some confusion in the question of the hon. member. There is no change in the status of the Yukon or Northwest Territories provided for in the resolution before the House. The situation after patriation will be exactly the same as it is before patriation. The territories will have the same powers, no more, no less.

As for hearing spokesmen from the area, the House will remember that I raised this very point with the premiers at my meeting in early June, and it was agreed—I would rather say felt very strongly—by the premiers that there should be no enlargement at this time of the forum composed of the ten premiers and the federal Prime Minister. This was a collective decision.

In so far as hearing voices from that part of the country, I urge the hon. member to get in contact with his whip. We on this side would be very happy to hear him speak, and I hope the members of the hon. member's party will find a place for him on the roll.

Mr. Clark: In place of one of yours?

[*Translation*]**PATRIATION—ALLEGED STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER CONCERNING OPINION OF QUEBECKERS**

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I should like to refer to the speech he made yesterday in Quebec City. In view of the fact that individuals and groups have stated their objections—the Prime Minister is surely aware of it—not to the principle but to the procedure of patriation, and considering the unanimity in the National Assembly, I should like to know how the Prime Minister can suggest and declare publicly that he has the support of Quebeckers, as he said yesterday before the chamber of commerce?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. member is anticipating somewhat when he refers to unanimity in the National Assembly. I think his leader indicated that he hoped to obtain that unanimity. However, I do not know whether he will get it.

As for the views of Quebeckers, Madam Speaker, I would acknowledge that it is not a monolith—we saw that during the referendum. But we do know that a decisive majority of Quebeckers are hoping for a renewed constitution within federalism.

Now, the hon. member knows full well that the only way to renew federalism is to make sure that we have a constitution with an amending formula in which the provinces collectively will have a right of veto.