

This situation is most alarming when one considers that 243.6 million garments of every type and description, including pants, suits, blouses, jackets, shirts, and sweaters were imported to Canada in 1984. In January, 1985, import permits were up 40 per cent. This year, if 5 per cent of the imported garments are mislabelled, then half of the entire Canadian population could purchase mislabelled imported clothing. This could affect every Canadian family.

* * *

COMMONWEALTH DAY

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, today is Commonwealth Day. This is an annual event which owes its origin to a Canadian proposal made during the 1975 Heads of Government meeting that was held in that year in Jamaica. The proposal is that the second Monday in March should be so designated in order to underline, in Canada and all other Commonwealth countries, the importance we attach to this unique association of 49 countries of great diversity in terms of size, colour, race, creed, culture, and at all stages of economic development.

Across Canada today special programs have been planned, especially in schools and public libraries, to mark this special occasion. Yesterday, special inter-faith services were held in various centres across the country to mark Commonwealth Day in Canada. This evening, all parliamentarians are invited to a special reception hosted by the Commonwealth High Commissioners in the Confederation Room in the West Block, to mark this very important occasion. Speaking on behalf of the executive and members of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I want to say how pleased and honoured we are to be able to associate ourselves with the celebration of Commonwealth Day.

Commonwealth Day is an important institution to all of us—

Mr. Speaker: I regret that I must advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

* * *

ENERGY

FEDERAL-NEWFOUNDLAND AGREEMENT ON OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I want to address some issues with respect to Newfoundland energy. Since 1978 the New Democratic Party has supported the view that the offshore belongs to the provinces. Therefore we applauded the recent deal respecting Hibernia, and I said so in the House.

We also suggested that it be taken further and enshrined as a constitutional amendment. However, we warned that New-

foundlanders should not forget about their fish, forests, their mines, and renewable resources, by putting all their eggs into the Hibernia basket. These other resources must be developed as well.

I am worried that the rate of development in Hibernia will not be controlled by the Newfoundland Government or the Canadian Government, but by Mobil Oil which is 100 per cent American owned. Mobil is very difficult to deal with on many issues. I have a suggestion for the Government of Canada. By chance, FIRA must approve the take-over by Mobil of Canadian Superior Oil. I suggest that Mobil should be forced to sell shares to a minority of Canadian shareholders so that it is faced with a minority share interest and must look after the needs of Newfoundlanders and Canadians. This can be done in the same way that the Government forced Texaco and Chevron to comply, in a previous ruling. That would be helpful to the interests of Newfoundland and Canada.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the opportunity to participate in an environmental day in Niagara Falls sponsored by Canadians for a Clean Environment. As the representative of the federal Government I was very pleased to be able to provide details of our new program to limit acid rain. This is the most comprehensive attack on pollution conceived in this country's history, and in that we can all take pride.

This new program is also timely in its announcement. We can now discuss environmental concerns with clean hands. In the past, our negotiations with the Americans have been hampered by our failure to take initiatives which would demonstrate our own commitment to deal with the environment. Today, that no longer can be said.

I am pleased that these issues will be first on the agenda at the meeting between the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States. I would urge the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) and members of the federal delegation to impress upon our neighbours to the south the need for an all-encompassing attack on pollution, dealing not only with the air that we breathe but also with the water that we drink.

The levels of toxic wastes in the Niagara River continue to be of major concern to the people in my riding and to those whose drinking water originates in Lake Ontario. We must do everything within our power to convince our American friends that together we should begin the long and difficult process of restoring the Niagara River to the state in which it should be. I know that the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Environment share those concerns as strongly as the people of my riding.