

HEALTH

ASBESTOS LEVELS IN LAKE SUPERIOR—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STOP ASBESTOS DISCHARGES AT SILVER BAY, MINNESOTA

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of the Environment or the Minister of National Health and Welfare. What immediate action are the federal officials taking to stop asbestos discharges at Silver Bay, Minnesota which it has recently been revealed are leading to asbestos levels in Lake Superior which are higher than allowable and which United States scientists consider to be dangerously high.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend would be pleased to make his representations to his colleagues in the Ontario government since the health aspect of water quality is controlled by provincial and municipal health departments in Canada. I might also inform my hon. friend that the Health Protection Branch scientists in my department are co-operating in a large scale study in the United States in respect of the health aspects of ingested asbestos.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): On a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister will he stop attempting to avoid his responsibility for problems which occur outside the jurisdiction—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. My question is, when will the minister and the federal government recognize their responsibility for problems which arise in the United States, a foreign jurisdiction outside the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario, when there are concentrations of asbestos which have moved in the last three years from a point where they were considered not to be dangerous to a point where they are now considered to be dangerous? Is he suggesting that the Government of Ontario has jurisdiction over a situation which arises internationally in the United States?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I can only answer my hon. friend by asking when he will learn to get his facts straight.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Is the minister telling the House that the Silver Bay—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for South Shore.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED NATO SUMMIT MEETING—POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON NECESSITY FOR MEETING—ATTENDANCE OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. On Monday the Prime Minister promised to check with the Secretary of State for External Affairs to see if there had been any

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discussions with United States authorities concerning NATO in light of the growing threat of Communism which is now menacing Europe. I should like again to ask the Prime Minister if he has had any discussions with the President of the United States on this matter and if a summit meeting is called for May or later is it his intention to attend and can he tell the House what Canada's position would be at such a meeting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe I indicated the answer to that in respect of a previous question earlier today when I indicated that the Secretary of State for External Affairs had indeed discussed this matter with Secretary Kissinger at the last meeting. On that occasion the Secretary of State for External Affairs repeated the position he made public that we would go along with the idea of a summit if it was thought necessary but we had some question about the timing.

● (1450)

On the other part of the question, I also answered in my previous answer that in the hypothetical case of the summit meeting being held at that point, I indeed would go and represent Canada. I hope I will have the support of hon. members opposite. As to the position we will take, I will have occasion to report to the House on that in due course.

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HOUSING

ALLEGED THREATS BY CMHC OFFICIAL TO NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Would the minister inform the House what action he has taken regarding the charge by the Liberal minister of housing in Nova Scotia that threats had been made by an official of CMHC to the effect that Mr. Fitzgerald must toe the line or a squeeze would be put on CMHC funds for use in Nova Scotia?

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have heard of these reports, and I have asked for an investigation. I will be calling Mr. Fitzgerald. I doubt if anything like that could conceivably have taken place, considering the integrity of the officials of CMHC.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Is the minister implying that Mr. Fitzgerald, when he said, "such threats from a CMHC official are highly irregular, and I am prepared to take the matter up with CMHC president William Teron and federal urban affairs minister Barnett Danson," was lying?

Mr. Danson: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that I had not spoken to Mr. Fitzgerald. I just read the report, just as an hon. member heard reports about my selling water somewhere. I have to get the facts straight. I would