

Oral Questions

and to the GST. They forecast, "An investment boom triggered by free trade with the U.S., tax reform and energy projects will make the 1990's a good decade for the Canadian economy." They say the good news will continue.

That is from the Institute for Policy Analysis at the University of Toronto. It is not the think tank of the Leader of the Opposition. That has a hole in its flue. To continue with the report. "The good news continues for the later 1990's. Major productivity gains engendered by the free trade adjustment continue to push growth just as the investment boom fades. In effect, free trade first pushes the economy to potential, to investment demand, and then acts to boost potential to productivity improvements."

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The toxic tire blaze in Hagersville has now been called one of the most severe environmental episodes in North America.

We talked with the control centre there this morning and they dealt with only 18 feet of the 13-acre blaze yesterday. Water bombers cannot climb because of freezing temperatures and fog, and dangerous toxins are pouring into the environment.

I want to ask the minister what urgent action he is prepared to take to put this fire out?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the government of Ontario, which is responsible for this, is taking all the measures it can to control the situation.

We all know that it is a major issue and that there are not many things that the government in Ontario can do to control the fire as of now.

This morning the Ontario government requested us to assist them in terms of analysis and sampling of smoke and toxic air related to the disaster. We have dispatched this morning a team of specialists from Environment Canada to take samplings. We are monitoring the

situation through advice and expertise in terms of atmospheric information and forecasts. As of now we stand ready to give the utmost assistance to the province of Ontario.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the minister in terms of what his ministry can do. But our party believes very strongly that federal emergency preparedness should be offering all possible personnel needed for rapid, urgent action. As of this stage this morning, only 30 firefighters are fighting on each shift.

I want to ask if the government has learned from the Saint-Basile-le-Grand disaster and will take this kind of swift action to offer emergency preparedness help right now to the province of Ontario?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we are now doing everything that has been asked of us by the Government of Ontario.

We all know that the solution lies in major global solutions in terms of storage and destruction of tire depots all across Canada. We are concerned about this depot. There are many other ones in Canada, and we are concerned about them.

The government has funded research at a cost of \$2 million to establish and develop a recycling process for tires. Three projects are presently going on. Three recycling facilities have been built. Three more are under construction. We will control the situation.

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ETHIOPIA

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the threat of famine situation in Ethiopia.

As the minister is well aware, in recent weeks there has been particular concern about the threatened population that was cut off because of the internal conflict. That has been exacerbated because of the attack and the apparent dislocation of the seaport of Massawa and the cut-off of the main supply lines, particularly for the churches to fulfil the obligations that the Archbishop of Canterbury announced a couple of weeks ago.