

Oral Questions

commitment to spend that kind of money which the Minister knows is greatly needed?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I really am puzzled because at the meeting of the Council of Environmental and Resource Ministers we agreed that all the jurisdictions involved, including the federal Government, the provinces and municipalities, would have to link arms to lick this problem. In fact the federal Government has spent millions of dollars in the past, is doing so now, and will continue to do so.

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EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

CROWN CORPORATIONS' MANDATORY RETIREMENT POLICY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Canadians are encouraged by the Government's intention to abolish mandatory retirement. However, one of my constituents who is approaching the age of 65 was recently informed by his employer, the CBC, that the corporation's mandatory retirement policy is still very much in effect. Given the Government's support to end mandatory retirement, when can Canadians expect legislation on this issue, and will it apply to Crown corporations?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the mandatory retirement policy which is embodied in the Public Service Superannuation regulations applies to government Departments, corporations and agencies subject to the Public Service Superannuation Act. These regulations were repealed as of July of this year. However, the Crown corporations continue to be subject to the Canadian Human Rights Act which refers to the normal age of retirement.

● (1450)

As Hon. Members will know, there has been a response to *Equality for All*, and we are committed an early introduction of amendments to the Act—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure Ministers would want to respond briefly and to the point.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

TEST BAN TREATY—REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN PARLIAMENT

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Given the meeting this coming weekend

between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan, would the Secretary of State bring a resolution to the House for adoption by unanimous consent of all Parties exhorting the superpowers to take concrete steps at this meeting in Iceland leading to a comprehensive test ban treaty?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I respect the spirit in which that suggestion is offered and I hope the Hon. Member will also respect the spirit of the response. I think what is of interest to us all is to encourage the two superpowers gathered there to come to an agreement on issues where they can find agreement. I do not think it would be much help to us, or to other countries, to offer advice which might be seen as gratuitous to the two superpowers as they meet.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of any issue which affects all of the world and mankind more than a comprehensive test ban treaty. I had assumed this was the policy of the Government. It seems to me the opportunity is available now to speak with a clear voice to both superpowers and the best way to do that is through a resolution of this House. Would the Secretary of State not agree?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would agree that there is always an opportunity to speak. What is unique about the meeting in Iceland, and the meeting we hope will follow, is that there will be action forthcoming. What is clear about the state of the world now is that the action the world needs is action which can be taken by those two superpowers meeting together.

We should be doing everything we can to encourage a constructive result of that meeting. Lecturing from afar will not necessarily add to a constructive result.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

NORWOOD POST OFFICE—MEETINGS ON OFFICE CLOSURE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Post Office in Winnipeg is holding a series of meetings regarding the closure of the Norwood Post Office. In these meetings the Post Office has separated seniors, ordinary citizens, and business people. It has closed a meeting except to a handful of residents by invitation only. Will the Minister intervene to open this meeting to any resident affected by the closure of this post office, and to open the meetings to the press as is appropriate in a democracy?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I simply want to remind the Hon. Member that this was a corporate decision.