

*Oral Questions*

opposition parties did not wish to have brought to a vote. Maybe they would like to reconsider their opinion at this time.

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**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. As of 2.15 this afternoon the federal government still had not filed with the courts an injunction concerning the Rafferty-Alameda and the ongoing construction. As I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister knows, the Saskatchewan government is proceeding with construction around the clock. So far they have not started work on the downstream channelization on the Souris Basin site and they have not started work either on the Souris Basin reservoir, which would be the most damaging to the wildlife habitat. Why has it taken the government four days to attempt to seek an injunction? When will it file the proper papers with the courts in order to seek the injunction and will it ask the court to render an immediate decision?

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment, who is in Washington meeting with Mr. Reilly and other American officials on the goods news relating to the passage of amendments relating to the U.S. Clean Air Act, I am happy to have this opportunity to inform the House that lawyers representing the Government of Canada are in fact in court this afternoon in the process of serving and filing the documents in the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench with respect to the injunction which we announced last week we would be seeking.

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, I am still concerned about the length of time it has taken. On May 2 of this year, I drew to the attention of the then minister of the environment the construction going on. At that particular time there were members of the panel who were threatening to resign from the panel. In fact, the minister of the day stated to me: "We are in the process of checking out what those activities are. If we find out that they are not justified for safety reasons,

et cetera, we will step in and take the proper decisions". Why has it taken the government almost half a year to come to the conclusion that the Saskatchewan government has been breaking the agreement and why has it not attempted to stop the Saskatchewan government from doing the construction much earlier?

• (1440)

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, during the course of last week, members of both official parties were on their feet day after day, demanding that the government go to court to seek an injunction to stop the work in Saskatchewan. When we announced last week we would do that, the opposition parties somehow or other immediately decided that that was not what they were seeking. Today, when I announced in the House of Commons that we are in court this afternoon, again there is no support for that proposal. Instead, they go back into history to try to ignore the issue which they proposed last week.

Mr. Speaker, the true facts of the matter are that we are in court this afternoon. We are doing exactly what both opposition parties wanted last week. For once I think it would be helpful if they stood on their feet and supported us.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence.

Will the minister tell the House and the Canadian people how the Persian Gulf task force operation is being financed? Is it out of the current operations and maintenance budget or is it from a separate funding arrangement?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. members knows, the Persian Gulf crisis was not something for which the government or any other government would have been able to plan.

The member asks whether it is from operations and maintenance or from a special fund. I can inform the hon. member that the resources needed to support the