

Oral Questions

hardship this will cause to Ecuadorians who are seeking immigration to Canada and for those seeking visitors' visas.

• (1415)

I am informed that the waiting period for an appointment with an immigration officer in Bogota, Colombia, the nearest Canadian Embassy to Ecuador, can be as long as six months.

The Government says it is closing this embassy and others for reasons of financial restraint. But the savings to be had are paltry when compared to the loss of reputation Canada sustains as an actor in international politics.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has said: "In every case we can continue to serve Canadian interests as effectively under the new arrangements as is now the case". I reject that explanation. There is simply no substitute for having a person in a country experiencing the daily life of an unfamiliar society.

I urge the Government to reconsider the closing of the embassy in Ecuador and the embassy closure policy of the Government in general.

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NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO PREVENT CRIME

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, today is day five of National Crime Prevention Week. Over the last few years we have seen a positive community response to the difficult problems of crime. Programs such as Neighborhood Watch and Crimestoppers are examples of co-operation between police and community members, co-operation that is necessary to prevent criminal activity.

Other effective crime prevention measures can be traced to concerned organizations. Governments have put in place harsher penalties for drinking and driving in response to input from groups such as MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and SADD, Students Against Drunk Driving.

As well as congratulating effective programs and organizations, we must call for an increased effort to get at the root causes of crime. Economic causes such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment, and social factors like family breakdown and community apathy all contribute to the growing problem of crime.

Events are taking place across Canada this week that are calling attention to these problems and proposing long-term solutions. The only way to control criminal activity in the long term is to strengthen communities, community ties, and to link individuals and citizens' groups with a common purpose. Such concerted and united action must be on the front line against crime.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister.

THE LATE RENÉ LÉVESQUE, FORMER PREMIER OF QUEBEC

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might seek the unanimous consent of the House to observe a moment of silence out of respect for the late René Lévesque, the former Premier of the Province of Quebec.

[Whereupon the House stood in silence for one minute.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—ENERGY SECTOR—EFFECT ON CANADIANIZATION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister. He will know that it has been the stated policy of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy to pursue Canadianization of our energy sector. In fact the stated policy of the Government is that takeovers of Canadian energy companies that are valued at \$5 million or more are subject to review. Yet the Minister of Energy's own briefing notes indicate that as of January 1, 1992, indirect acquisitions of energy companies in this country will not be subject to any review whatsoever.

How can the Deputy Prime Minister and the Government allow the Americans to take over our energy sector? How can the Government allow our energy sector to become Americanized when its stated policy has been to Canadianize the energy sector?

• (1420)

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, we should define "indirect acquisition". Indirect acquisition would mean that that energy company or that energy industry was already owned by a foreign company and, therefore, there would be no change in the balance of ownership that is presently there now.

ENERGY SHORTAGES—PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the indirect acquisitions of Canadian companies are of Canadian companies and not foreign companies.

Not only have we been misled about the availability of a final draft of the energy text in the agreement, not only have we been misled about Canadianization, but according to the Minister's own documents any measures to protect Canadian consumers "can be overridden by a challenge under U.S. countervailing and anti-dumping legislation".