

S. O. 31

The Canadian government cross-border shops for its test fuel to get MMT-free gasoline. If it used gasoline containing MMT, Canadian automobiles would not pass the emission tests.

MMT, in addition to being a suspected health risk which has been banned in the United States since 1978 for its damaging effects on the pollution control devices of cars, boosted hydrocarbon emissions by up to 27 per cent according to the government's own testing in 1985.

Instead of waiting until 1996 to cut hydrocarbons in the lab by 29 per cent, I call on the minister now to ban MMT and cut those emissions by as much as 27 per cent.

It is time the government came clean on its emission testing standards and revealed just how bad MMT emissions really are. Faking emission testing will not help the environment; real cuts will.

* * *

[Translation]

SPONSORS

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to point out the important contribution, which unfortunately is too often overlooked, of those who support the Canadian sports community. Of course I mean the many sponsors. As much as the athletes, they deserve our sincerest thanks and congratulations.

For example, they make it possible for young soccer players to enjoy their sport on Canada's many playing fields in the summer. They help provide refreshments, equip them and transport them to sports meets outside their community. They also co-operate in many receptions to honour the most deserving players and they help leading athletes reach the top of their field. In short, they help our young people fulfil their dreams and make it as far as the Olympic level.

Although they give considerable amounts, we are grateful to them much more for their deep commitment to the basic values of amateur sport. They thus help make Canada a better country in which to live.

[English]

SENIORS

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, in the budget the government cut the seniors independence programs by over 22 per cent.

The Minister of State for Seniors should be well aware that the one thing seniors want the most is independence. Seniors deserve the right to live their lives as they choose and they want the government to support that objective. The Seniors Independence Program and Seniors Independence Research Program are important in meeting this objective. Seniors want to remain independent and live in their communities as long as possible.

The minister must commit the government to the independence of seniors and restore funding to these two important programs. Supporting the independence of seniors is a step in the right direction, but with these cuts the government has taken a giant step backward.

I urge the government to reverse this decision and to support seniors.

* * *

WORK PLACE SAFETY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the Minister of Labour a dispute that is ongoing between Labour Canada and CAW representing railway carmen. It has to do with the presence of PCBs in paint on rolling stock that carmen are being called to work on.

On numerous occasions carmen have expressed their concern about this matter. There is growing anxiety and even anger among them that Labour Canada does not appear to want to take an interest in this issue. Labour Canada does not exist to defend the interests of the CPR or the CNR. It exists to enforce existing rules and to make sure that there is such a thing as work place safety and health.

I call on the minister to take an interest in this issue by making sure that something is done about the information that has come to light about PCBs in paint on certain cars, and most recently with respect to truck sides that carmen have to work on. I hope the minister will soon do something about this and have Labour Canada live up to its mandate.