

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): As Minister of Immigration, Mr. Speaker, I have no pretention to act for judges whose role it is to consider the applications of prospective immigrants to Canada.

I would especially urge my colleague to respect the existing Immigration Act mechanisms which are responsible for the fact that this country can welcome outstanding immigrants.

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[English]

APARTHEID**SOUTH AFRICA—OBSERVANCE OF COMMONWEALTH SANCTIONS**

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He will know that 87,000 litres of South African wine have arrived at the Port of Vancouver, clearly in contravention of the intent of Commonwealth sanctions issued on August 5. The Premier of B.C. is meeting with the South African Ambassador in British Columbia tomorrow.

● (1450)

Has the Prime Minister discussed with Premier Vander Zalm this blatant violation of the federal Government's sanctions policy, or is the federal Government only going to pay lip service to the policy itself?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the story to which the Hon. Member is referring. From my reading of the story I believe that the wine in question would have been shipped before the sanctions were put in place. Therefore, I have no other comment at this time.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it is not clear that the wine was shipped before.

GOVERNMENT'S SANCTIONS POLICY

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): In any event, will the Prime Minister or the Minister ensure that the wine does not appear in B.C. liquor stores? Tomorrow the Premier is meeting Ambassador Babb, who is out making a thank you call. Will the Prime Minister discuss with the Premier the nature of the federal Government's sanctions policy?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nunziata: Stranger in the House.

Mr. Broadbent: Remember, there is no supplementary.

Mr. Mulroney: Let *Hansard* show that the NDP responded with affection.

Mr. Gauthier: With surprise.

Mr. Mulroney: I believe that the policy of the Government of Canada with regard to the actions of the Government of South Africa is well known. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, I, and others have articulated on many occasions that we are in the process of putting in place further sanctions to demonstrate the revulsion of all Canadians with regard to the policy of apartheid. The position of the Government of Canada and the Parliament of Canada is well known to all Canadians, including Premiers.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**NIAGARA RIVER CLEANUP PLAN**

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Last week the Minister released the plan for the cleanup of toxic chemicals moving into the Niagara River from the dump sites. When can the people in the Niagara Peninsula expect the cleanup of the toxic chemicals to begin?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I assume the Hon. Member for Davenport has read the Niagara River Toxic Management Plan. That report states that by July, 1987, we hope to be able to set targets and schedules for the actual cleanup of the river based on the scientific information we are seeking through the process put in train.

START OF OPERATIONS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister be less vague and give us a specific date? In May of this year in this House he said: "We are to begin immediately to clean up the toxins in the Niagara River from the dump sites". Rather than postponing until next July, could he tell us exactly when the cleanup operation will begin?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I just said that the four jurisdictions concerned, New York, Ontario, the Government of the United States and that of Canada, have mobilized their scientific resources to monitor the river, to assess the extent of the pollution, to identify the specific pollution sources, and to quantify the relative amounts of toxins going into the river from all sources. By July, 1987, we hope to be able to set a specific date by which we will achieve the cleanup.