

been implemented for several months with teams of medical experts and the tests carried on those Indians will go on extensively. In fact, the cases identified up to this day were discovered following the policy which was recommended and implemented by the government.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS BE DECLARED WATER QUALITY CONTROLLED ZONES

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): The minister knows full well that those are only random samplings. I should like to direct a question, now, to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that the mercury-polluted English river/Wabigoon river system is an interprovincial waterway, will the minister now acknowledge federal responsibility and begin discussions with the Ontario and Manitoba governments preparatory to declaring the area a water quality controlled zone under the provision of the Canada Water Act, or, in the event of failure to get provincial co-operation, take unilateral action as the Act empowers him to do?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that we are constantly trying to eliminate mercury from the environment. We have established standards in this respect. We continue to do so and keep cooperating with the provinces to eliminate not only mercury but PCBs as well. If, in this specific instance, there is something which could be done, I shall be very happy to.

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[English]

MANPOWER

PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NATIVES OF WHITE DOG AND GRASSY NARROWS RESERVES IN VIEW OF LOSS OF WORK AS GUIDES

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): I see the buck-passing still goes on. I will try once more. In view of the fact that the Indians living on the White Dog and Grassy Narrows reserves depend on fishing and guiding for employment and that mercury pollution is destroying not only their health but also their livelihood, I would ask the Minister of Manpower what special plans he has to provide alternative employment for those residents who are desperately in need of assistance?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): We have had some discussion with the government of Ontario in connection with special employment programs for that whole area. The program would extend not only to those directly affected but to others in the area, and I expect to announce some specifics in the not too distant future.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PUERTO RICO SUMMIT CONFERENCE—EFFECT OF DECISIONS ON CANADA

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister concerning the important meeting just held in Puerto Rico. I am happy that this time Canada was invited to this economic summit and, Mr. Speaker, this is to the credit of the Prime Minister and of the Canadian people.

My question is this: can the Prime Minister tell the House what will be the impact of those talks on the domestic administrative policies of the country and also whether he made any commitment on behalf of Canada towards the chiefs of state he met?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no decision which could affect the domestic administration of any country, including Canada, was taken. We exchanged views, statistics and data which enabled the countries represented to try developing a common knowledge of economic issues and freedom problems in general.

POSSIBILITY OF SENDING ADDITIONAL FOOD SUPPLIES TO THIRD WORLD

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether during those discussions someone raised the possibility of allocating new funds for additional food aid to be sent to countries in the Third World?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there was a rather lengthy discussion on aid projects for the Third World. Each country participated in this discussion. The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs also spoke at length as co-chairman of the conference on economic co-operation in Europe which is being held in Paris, but there were no precise commitments made by any leader of participating governments. Of course Canada has played a major role in encouraging member countries to help Third World nations.

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● (1420)

[English]

INCOME TAX

ALLEGED MASSIVE FRAUD INVOLVING 200 COMPANIES—INQUIRY WHETHER INVESTIGATION BEGAN BEFORE VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue and is related to the alleged massive tax fraud involving 200 different companies and \$400 million uncovered by a journalist for the *Montreal Gazette* and which was the subject of a radio interview on the CBC. Can the minister inform the House whether his department is investigating this