

*Oral Questions*

what steps does the Government plan to take to locate and to test sites where those levels may be dangerous?

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, we are conducting two parallel investigations right now. The first will be directed at the industrial community. We will communicate with industry people to make sure that the products sold to Canadians are safe.

Second, on the multidepartmental level and jointly with the Government of Ontario, we are investigating to substantiate the evidence in support of the allegations published today.

## LOCATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who should be very concerned about this. There may in fact be gas stations near elementary schools. There may in fact be industrial sites where hundreds of thousands of gallons of polluted heating fuels that have PCBs, furans and dioxins in them. There may be sites with extremely high toxic levels. Will the Minister endeavour to locate those sites and to test those people who have been proximate to those dangerous levels for the protection of their health and for the protection of all Canadians?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in response to the question from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East, all the resources of my Department will be put at the disposal of the Minister of the Environment who is taking the lead on this. We will be co-operating fully. Anything the federal Government can do to be helpful we will do.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Tadeusz Olechowski, Foreign Minister of the Polish People's Republic.

[Translation]

## HOUSING

## CO-OPS—FUNDING CUT-BACKS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Housing).

The Minister has reduced co-ops funding from \$7,8 million last year to \$5,5 million this year. It is estimated that this reduction will hardly allow the funding of 1,800 housing units this year, which represents the lowest level over the past eleven years.

My question is this: What steps will the Minister take to reverse this decision? Is the Minister prepared to accept a worse record than that of his predecessor whom he blamed so very much?

[English]

**Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is aware, and as he has indicated, the budget for co-op housing has been reduced in this current year from what it was last year. I regret that. The Government regrets that.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Redway:** As I indicated previously the problem is the deficit situation that we are facing.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Redway:** Other Canadians know that, even if members of the NDP do not.

I received recently a letter from the Executive Director of the Family Services Association of Metropolitan Toronto. I would like to quote from that letter which states: "It should be evident to most Canadians that 31 cents interest on each tax dollar is an unacceptably high price to pay for current government operations and programs. Furthermore, allowing the deficit to grow poses a real threat to the health, educational and social programs of our country". That comes from a director of a social service agency.

I am endeavouring, along with the co-operative housing movement, to meet with them and to develop with them ways to produce more out of the Budget than is available to us.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!