

Adjournment Debate

As you are aware, the site is no longer an active weapons production facility and the problems on site are now largely related to the local leaking and seeping of chemicals, and this the hon. member has acknowledged. Present Canadian concerns with this facility are related to the cleanup work, reconstruction, and the risk or possibility of accidental radioactive releases from waste material.

In October 1991, an *ad hoc* Canadian Interdepartmental Committee on Hanford, chaired by Health and Welfare, with representatives from the AECB, Environment Canada, External Affairs, and Emergency Awareness Canada were formed to review the past, present, and future effects of Hanford operations on Canadians.

The U.S. officials are willing to address the Canadian concerns and to provide information on an intensive dose reconstruction project currently under way on the ongoing operations at this facility and on the development of emergency procedures.

The U.S. Department of Energy has undertaken a massive plan to clean up the site and safely dispose of the waste permanently. Currently the U.S. Department of Energy does not have all the information available to make some decisions and therefore research and development is required to get to the decision-making points. As this information becomes available the risk to Canadians can be reassessed.

REVENUE CANADA

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, justice delayed is justice denied. My constituent, Mr. Zvi Gitter, president of Imperial Cabinet in my riding of Winnipeg North, has been waiting for justice for much, much too long. He and nine other cabinet makers in Manitoba have lost over \$300,000 unfairly and unjustly and the minister of internal revenue is yet to rectify this injustice. My constituents alone lost over \$82,000. The money was lost when the cabinet makers were not given rebates due to them from the federal government.

A year ago last March I brought this matter to the attention of the minister in the House of Commons. In a press interview following Question Period the minister said, and I quote from the March 27, 1991 issue of *The Winnipeg Free Press*: "The bottom line is that I am satisfied on a case-by-case basis everything was done in accordance with the rules and regulations that were distributed fairly and equitably to everybody, every

manufacturer in every province, every town and every region".

Nearly a year later, on March 2, 1992 the Canadian International Trade Tribunal rendered its decision on this issue and found that Revenue Canada's memorandum of information, which was to benefit manufacturers of kitchen cabinets, was not made available to the industry served by the Winnipeg district office even though the information was being used by the ad industry in other parts of the country.

I would like to quote from this decision: "I. The error can be directly attributed to Revenue Canada; II. The error resulted in an inequitable and unjustifiable application of departmental policy to the industry in one region of the country; III. The memorandum that was unfairly applied to the Winnipeg region was not a regulation made pursuant to the Excise Tax Act".

The discredited departmental policy allowed one region of the country to benefit to the detriment of my city. Promulgation of such a policy, were it deliberate, is unconscionable. Not knowing such a policy was promulgated was, to me, a classic example of ministerial irresponsibility.

Therefore, I ask how the minister would explain to this House that he caused such a policy to be issued in violation of the tax law he has sworn to uphold. How will the minister explain to this House this determination by the Canadian International Trade Tribunal with the minister's statement of a year ago: "Everything was done in accordance with the rules and regulations."?

Nearly three months ago, March 12, I again raised this issue in the Chamber and the minister again failed to give a satisfactory reply. Therefore, in light of this I ask the parliamentary secretary and I challenge him to reply to these concerns. I seek the support of this House to have the minister admit his mistake and make the appropriate restitution to my constituent and other cabinet makers in Manitoba in the name of fairness and justice. I would like the parliamentary secretary, as he replies on behalf of the minister, to remember the universal truism that justice delayed is justice denied.

Mr. Barry Moore (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the cabinet makers in Manitoba were treated equitably and the member for Winnipeg North knows this full well. The minister even gave the hon. member a brief regarding this subject.