

S. O. 21

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**SEWAGE TREATMENT—NEED FOR MODERNIZATION**

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, much attention has been paid lately in the House, and rightly so, to the whole question of acid rain. However, there is another and equally serious environmental problem which often does not receive attention in the House, that is, the whole matter of sewage treatment—the need for upgrading and modernization and, in some places, just putting in the basic infrastructure for sewage treatment in Canada.

We are reminded of that need in the story yesterday about thousands of gallons of sewage polluted storm water being pumped into the Great Lakes at Fort Erie, Ontario.

However, one of the most disturbing things is the total abdication of any responsibility in the area by the federal Government. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has said that this is up to the provinces and to the municipalities. What is really required is some leadership by the federal Government.

• (1405)

This is a massive job that needs to be undertaken throughout Canada, but some areas in particular ought to be kept specially in mind. For instance, in the Province of Quebec something like 40 per cent of the sewage still goes into the Canadian environment totally untreated. In 1987 that is nothing short of a crime, and it continues to be a political crime that the federal Government abdicates its responsibility.

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HORTICULTURE**EFFECT OF UNITED STATES SUBSIDIES ON CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCERS**

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of some 20,000 Canadian honey producers, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the financial difficulty which they are encountering. Unfortunately, American agricultural subsidies are having the same impact on our honey producers as U.S. grain subsidies are having on our grain farmers.

According to the Manitoba Honey Producers Association, the world market price of honey has dropped some 13 cents a pound and further declines are feared. As about 80 per cent of western Canadian honey is sold at that world price, that drop in world price has already forced many producers out of business. In addition, prairie honey producers are having difficulty finding markets, even at these reduced prices.

As you may know, Sir, the western Canadian honey beekeepers depend very heavily on American markets and,

unfortunately, those markets are now being interfered with by tariffs.

In addition, the markets which we have enjoyed in Europe are buying heavily subsidized American honey. As a result, many of Canada's honey producers will need financial assistance if they are to continue in business for another year.

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INDUSTRY**SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—DELAY IN MODERNIZATION PROJECT**

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in July, 1984, the now Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in the company of many of his colleagues, both provincially and federally, made a commitment with regard to the modernization of Sydney Steel. That commitment was reaffirmed after the election in September, 1984.

People in eastern Nova Scotia had to wait 24 months before those sentiments were expressed in a subsidiary agreement signed by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia. Another 12 months elapsed before finding out from the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté) that the Government had not received the business plan from Sydney Steel and the Province of Nova Scotia. We have been informed that the business plan has now been received by the Government of Canada.

We now learn from the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion that there are two other hoops which the Province of Nova Scotia must go through before the federal Government will participate. This is an unconscionable delay. This is wanton disrespect for the people of eastern Nova Scotia who have been waiting for the Prime Minister, his colleagues in the Province of Nova Scotia and, in particular, the Members of Parliament who represent us in the federal Cabinet. It is absolutely unconscionable, Mr. Speaker.

I call upon the Government of the day to live up to its responsibilities and make this money available so that modernization will go on.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS**HIGH INTEREST RATES CHARGED TO BORROWERS**

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, the previous Government started a practice of borrowing money outside Canada for the purpose of lending Canadians money through Crown corporations, such as the Farm Credit Corporation and the Federal Development Bank.