

Oral Questions

Mr. Chrétien: I think the Hon. Member should realize at this time that in western Canada I am having very good relations with the Government of Alberta. When I meet representatives of the industry, they receive me very well. In fact in Calgary the other day 1,650 people from the Chamber of Commerce came to hear me. It is certainly not a very hostile climate.

Miss MacDonald: It is what they said afterwards that you should have listened to.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South): Madam Speaker, does the Minister seriously believe that that in any way answers the question that I have just asked? Does he really seriously believe just what he said—because people come to see him that he understands the degree of the devastation which the National Energy Program has caused in western Canada? That is no answer at all, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid the Hon. Member is not asking a question. He is simply expressing a view which he is entitled to have, but it is not really a question of such magnitude, and it is very difficult to answer in a Question Period. The Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers).

Mr. Chrétien: I would like to answer the question, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Chrétien: I have followed the press very closely—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Red Deer.

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CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION

RCMP INVESTIGATION—PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, in view of the dissatisfaction of the Auditor General with the management of the Canadian Dairy Commission, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the RCMP have undertaken an investigation of the Canadian Dairy Commission, can the Minister of Justice tell the House when its report will be forthcoming?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): I will take that question as notice, Madam Speaker.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE REPORT TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Could we have the understanding, Madam Speaker, that the Minister of Justice will be making a report to the House of Commons when it is forthcoming?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): I will certainly consider that suggestion, Madam Speaker.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NIAGARA RIVER—UNITED STATES POLLUTANT SOURCES

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment, following his visit to Niagara yesterday. Recognizing, as the Minister does, that most of the sources of pollutants are on the American side of the river, what commitment did the Minister get from his colleagues on the American side to remedy some time—sooner, not later—the problems of those source pollutants?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I did meet with the new Secretary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Ruckelshaus, a couple of weeks ago. Yesterday when I was in the Niagara region I did meet with the regional EPA administrator and discussed exactly those issues with her. I do believe the American administration is looking now for ways of acting rather than simply studying these problems. I was encouraged yesterday that the American Government announced it will be using superfund moneys, something like \$700,000 as an initial step, in application to the toxic site problems in the Niagara Peninsula. I hope that is a first step and not a final step.

There are some reasons to be encouraged by what appears to be a new attitude taken by the new team in EPA in Washington. But I suggest that it is still important for us to continue with our representations and urgings that the United States take prompt action to respond to these problems.

ACTION TAKEN IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, the Minister knows that he himself stated that his proposed tri-government level approach is a short-term approach. The Minister has not answered this afternoon anything different from what he has answered on previous occasions. Will he then, if he will not initiate proceedings against U.S. authorities that are polluting the Niagara River, join with the other intervenors in opposition to the "S" area contaminant site?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I have not announced anything particularly new in answer to the questions today because the questions are the same old questions we have continually been receiving, and the answers are the same. I have already explained. If the hon.