



TV
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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CHIEF WHIP
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

July 26, 1982.

Toby Vigod
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Dear Toby:

Just a short note to thank you for your contribution at our meeting in Toronto with Assemblyman Joseph Pillitterre.

I feel that we made significant progress in terms of establishing our own proposals with respect to possible solutions to the problems effecting the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

Following our meeting on Thursday, Jim Fulton raised these matters in the House during Question Period the morning of Friday, July 23. I've enclosed the relevant excerpts from Hansard for your information. As a result of the Prime Minister's invitation in response to Jim Fulton's question, we were able to arrange a meeting with officials from External Affairs and Environment Canada to discuss the documents in our possession and the charges that we made concerning the EPA Love Canal report.

We were able to extract several commitments from the officials at the meeting including giving the review of the Love Canal report and supporting documents top priority in the Department of the Environment; future meetings and consultations and public statements by the Ministers of External Affairs and Environment on their positions concerning the EPA report.

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We will continue to consult with you on these matters and keep you informed as developments occur.

Again, thank you for your contribution at the meeting in Toronto. Your comments were very useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neil".

Neil Young, MP
Beaches
Chairman
NDP Environment Task Force.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, the minister knows he has already made commitments to universities to change the bill, and he has made commitments to change the bill concerning membership lists. Why will he not do the same thing for churches and religious organizations?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I already undertook to make changes when this bill is before the committee. If the hon. member wants to help the churches, he should allow this bill to go to committee as soon as possible.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

MINISTERS' MEETING WITH CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Prime Minister and some cabinet colleagues met with more labour union leaders. Press reports seem to indicate that there are two positions, the government's position, and the one being advanced by the unions, namely, exchange controls, spending more money, and maybe increasing the deficit if it does not prove to be stimulative. Will the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues continue meeting with the CLC and others, or is there no possibility of reaching an agreement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, on the first part of the question the answer is yes. When we adjourned the meeting yesterday—it was an adjournment and not a breaking off—we did hope to continue discussions. We had, I think, a very important meeting yesterday because we discussed not only the economy but the economic processes quite thoroughly. The CTC recognized very explicitly that the cause of high interest rates in Canada was high interest rates in the United States. That was made very clear in the brief, and they said so very unequivocally. I know the Tory Party is not very interested in what the CTC says, but I think the NDP might want to take note of that. Of course the remedy they propose is that we bring in exchange controls so that we can cut ourselves off from the U.S. in so far as the free flow of money is concerned. I think members of the House would know the great difficulties involved in embarking on exchange controls.

I must confess I found it somewhat paradoxical that the CTC would be advising exchange controls—

An hon. Member: CLC.

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: —the CLC would be in favour of exchange controls, while it is opposed to price and wage controls.

Oral Questions

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

INTER-AGENCY REPORT ON LOVE CANAL HEALTH HAZARDS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. As he knows, or should know, there are increasing levels of dioxin, the most powerful poison known to modern science, leaking into the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Ontario which is the water supply for seven million Canadians and Americans. Right now the Government of Canada is hiding an inter-agency report in which nine out of the 11 scientists involved confirm that the Love Canal is not safe, thereby creating a serious health hazard for Canadians.

Will the Prime Minister personally look into the reason why the Government of Canada is hiding that report and has done nothing to date to inform Canadians of the position taken by those scientists, and will he endeavour to report back to the House next week on what he finds out about that report?

Mr. Jim Schroder (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, the Minister of the Environment and the Prime Minister view the pollution of the Niagara River and the Great Lakes as a top priority matter, and have voiced their concern to the U.S. in the strongest possible terms. Officials of the minister's department are now looking at this report and in due course we will report to the House.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Assemblyman Hinchey, Chairman of the New York State Environment and Conservation Committee, is in the Speaker's gallery today, and he informs me that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Reagan administration are clearly conspiring, along with Environment Canada, to cover up the health dangers of the Love Canal to both Canadians and Americans.

Will the Prime Minister send a diplomatic note to President Reagan informing him that continued inaction on the Love Canal is at the very least in contravention of the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if I understand correctly, the U.S. official who is in the gallery today is accusing Canada and the U.S. of conspiring to cover up. Perhaps I could have him meet with some of the officials of the Department of External Affairs or of the Department of the Environment, because that is a very grave accusation indeed.