

Hazardous Products Act

[English]

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

On Clause 5—

Mr. Kindy: Madam Chairman, on Clause 5, I would like to know exactly the numbers in dollars which are being discussed here.

[Translation]

Mrs. Landry: Madam Speaker, the debts that were forgiven at the time as far as Togo is concerned—we are talking about \$16,511,216; for Mauritania, \$4,199,202; as for the three countries of the East African Community, for Kenya the debt was \$19,750,000; for Tanzania, \$15,463,738; and for Uganda, \$12,185,241.

[English]

Clause agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

[Translation]

Mr. Valcourt moved that the Bill be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

● (1850)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When shall the Bill be read the third time? By unanimous consent, now?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Monique Landry (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that the Bill be read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.

[Translation]

HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (for Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved that: Bill C-70, An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act and the Canada Labour Code, to enact the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act and to amend other Acts in relation thereto, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When shall the Bill be read the third time? Now?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cadieux moved that the Bill be read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Debate. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux).

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I am very glad to have the opportunity to speak about Bill C-70, which aims at providing every Canadian administration with a Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

[English]

As Minister of Labour I am particularly gratified to see the WHMIS legislation brought forward during this session of Parliament. The year 1987 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Canada Labour Code and, historically speaking, is an especially appropriate time to strengthen the protections for Canadian workers who have to handle hazardous materials.

Let me explain why I strongly believe Canada and Canadian workers need the WHMIS program. Each year many more working days are lost through occupational accidents and illnesses than through industrial disputes. One specific cause of these losses is an area that is directly addressed by the WHMIS legislation: the presence of chemicals and other materials in the workplace which are hazardous to the safety and health of workers who use them.

[Translation]

Workers are certainly entitled to know which material they are handling. However, the employers themselves have often little or incomplete knowledge of the dangers of some of the substances or products used. Those in the best position to have such information are the manufacturers and distributors.

That is why, Madam Speaker, Canadian federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety organizations have asked the assistance and participation of the federal Government in developing a single national standard for the use of hazardous materials in the workplace.