Government Orders

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The government has stated that it intends to stabilize Canadian carbon dioxide emissions at their 1990 levels by the year 2000. However, on Monday, speaking to a meeting of the Canadian Coal Association, energy standing committee chairman Al Johnson said: "This is an impossible goal".

My question is: Was Mr. Johnson's statement a signal from the government? Is the government abandoning even its wishy-washy capping goal? Or is the chairman of the standing committee simply personally repudiating his government's policy?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as they say: "none of the above" as to the options the hon. member put in his question.

The hon. member should know, and he and I have discussed this in committee before, that it is Canada's policy to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000. We are working on moving that toward a signature for Brazil in 1992. There are obviously great differences internationally as to how stabilization can be effected. I can give him, for example, the European proposal or the American proposal where they include CFCs and where Canada has not.

If we exclude some of those issues then for Canada it makes it much more difficult to meet some of the criteria that other countries have given themselves and for which they are given credit. When we look behind the veil, so to speak, it is not the same as it appears.

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: The time for Question Period has, even with the extension, concluded.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to designate tomorrow as an allotted day.

POINT OF ORDER

CLARIFICATION OF ANSWER

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Agriculture, in response to my supplementary question on the PVY-N virus, replied:

 $-{\rm regardless}$ of the strain of virus it is not accepted in the United States.

I would like the hon. minister to clarify that statement.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is not only the area of the United States. It is those in areas within Canada that are not looking forward and are resisting every effort to have a virus transmitted into their region. We hope that through the process that has been established by Agriculture Canada and the openness with the United States that there may be able to be a reopening of the table market for Prince Edward Island potatoes.

But I am sure the hon. member supports the efforts of the Government of Canada and the moneys that have been expended in eradicating the PVY-N virus which, although not dangerous to humans, is dangerous to the production and the ongoing support in the agricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker: I might just remind hon. members that I certainly would be prepared to hear points of order, but we do have an order which compels us to vote now.

If the hon. member feels it is of great urgency, I will hear it now or I will hear it later.

An hon, member: Later.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, September 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-29, an act respecting compensation in the public sector of Canada and to amend another act in relation thereto, be