

Adjournment Debate

● (1840)

Our competent Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) has already requested that officials in his Department conduct a health risk assessment. Results of the assessment will be provided shortly to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Department of the Environment. National programs to address product exposure and environmental concerns will be developed, as required for this inquiry.

The dioxin problem is national and international in scope. Actions to limit its presence are ongoing in the United States, Sweden, and Ontario. The federal Government is fully aware of this work. The experience of others will be considered in the development of future federal programs.

In Canada, work to reduce dioxin releases into the environment has been underway since 1983, following recommendations made by an expert advisory committee on dioxins

established by the then Ministers of National Health and Welfare and the Environment.

A departmental task force has been established recently, and it is reviewing results obtained to date on dioxin levels in pulp and paper mill effluents. This group of experts will recommend appropriate programs to address this problem. As required, programs will be initiated by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to address product exposure concerns.

We hope to give the results of these inquiries in a very short time.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.41 p.m.
