

Oral Questions

Will the minister tell this House once and for all that he will not sacrifice Canadian jobs just to satisfy his government's American corporate friends?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, apparently the hon. gentleman did not hear the previous question or the previous answer.

I can certainly tell him that this government is not going to sacrifice Canadian jobs for anyone, including hon. members opposite.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Canadians who leave the country to marry a citizen of another country have to wait two years or more before their spouses can come to Canada.

Can the minister tell Canadians, and in particular Canadians of Indian origin, that this inhumane, long delay will not be tolerated any more and that new measures will be introduced to reunite spouses as soon as possible?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, clearly this is a matter of some considerable concern from a humanitarian point of view.

However, as the hon. member knows, part of the reason for the delay is simply the high demand of people who want to come to Canada. As the hon. member also knows from my announcement on immigration levels, with the additional money that we are going to put into processing we will be able to speed this process up, I would hope quite considerably. We will be moving spouses to the top of our priority list, as we move into our new immigration plan.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, the minister said that it is due to the high demand of people who want to come to Canada. But why do spouses have to wait over two years to be reunited? Why does the minister demand that spouses be separated immediately after getting married?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that our immigration plan does call for better conditions for

spouses. It is a problem, but it is also due to the high number of people who are applying to come to Canada. We have the power to change the system to some extent, but not to the extent the hon. member and myself would like to.

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[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment who has lost the battle in cabinet on including specifics on global warming in the shrinking green plan. Greed obviously packs more punch than green for the Conservatives and their millionaire friends in the fossil fuel sector.

Would the minister explain to Canadians why he has chosen pollution and profit ahead of the conservation and energy efficiency strategy, which would have cut carbon dioxide emissions and would have saved every man, woman and child in Canada \$5,000 over the next 10 years?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, all I can say to my hon. colleague in answer to that question is that the only thing that is shrinking here is his knowledge base about what is going to be in the green plan.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. It will be interesting to see if when he said "billions" with an *s* it is the \$5 billion that his predecessor promised in five \$1 billion announcements.

Would the minister confirm that without action on global warming, which is clearly the most serious global environmental threat that we face, Canadians will face emergency costs as revealed in Geneva of \$12 billion in dikes and other emergency measures to hold back sea rise over the next 20 years?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to re-emphasize the position that this Government of Canada has taken in Geneva.

First of all, we re-emphasized our commitment to stabilize greenhouse gases by the year 2000 at 1990 levels. Second, we stated very clearly in Geneva—and my colleague was there to hear me—that we accepted that further steps were required and that we would be working with the international community to set out those steps. Finally, we argued very strongly in that