

Business of the House

Mr. Mulroney: Non-Afro-Canadians—I was there.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: We are coming to the close of Question Period and I would like to move ahead as expeditiously as we can. The right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Mulroney: It was a marvellous event, clouded only by the fact, I should say, on the way out, a group of people said to me: "Give our love to Howard".

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CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Yesterday and this morning, the Minister of the Environment confirmed Canada's commitment to stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions.

Given Canada's record as one of the highest per capita carbon dioxide producers in the world, when will this government commit Canada to cutting—not to stabilizing—carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2005, as many industrial nations have already done? In other words, will the government back up its rhetoric with some teeth?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as you know, Canada has provided leadership as one of a number of industrialized nations which has made a commitment to stabilizing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000 at 1990 levels. Despite the fact that we have not achieved our first goal of ensuring that other nations going to Rio have accepted that, we feel that good progress has been made and the convention which will be signed there will be a first step in that direction.

It is also important to indicate that we will continue with our objective of stabilizing those emissions by the year 2000 and we will work in co-operation with energy ministers and other partners throughout Canada in so doing.

STATISTICS CANADA

Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. Not only does the government want to destroy Canada's science and technology infrastructure, it wants to hide the evidence. Last year the government tried to cut science and technology statistics but was forced to back down because of the public outcry. Today it is at it again. Will the minister pledge to reverse the ridiculous decision to cut the science and technology section of Statistics Canada?

• (1500)

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, the science statistics will be collected every second year and there will be an estimate made in between by sampling some of the larger companies.

The United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden all work on the same basis as Statistics Canada intends to do. It has not hurt their research efforts.

Instead of my hon. friend worrying about R and D statistics, he would be far better off talking to his colleagues who want to put in regulations that keep Canada non-competitive in terms of R and D in the pharmaceutical industry, for example. The only way we will have an increase in R and D is for us to have regulations so it is possible that people can join us, not what he wants to do.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. John Ningark, Minister Responsible for Renewable Resources, Minister of Government Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Directorate from the Government of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader with regard to the business of the House next week. Perhaps he could explain what will transpire tomorrow. I believe the House will be sitting Tuesday through Friday of next week. Could he indicate the business of the House.