

Supply

The St. Basile-le-Grand disaster, in Quebec, on August 23, 1988, reinforced the federal and provincial government joint efforts to get rid of PCBs in Canada. In September, the federal and provincial Environment Ministers agreed to intensify their efforts to eliminate this type of pollutant.

For one, the federal Minister issued an emergency order, in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, to regulate storage of PBC waste. The standards for storing PCB and gaining access to the storage areas are tough, but necessary.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the federal government announced it would rent two mobile incinerators to dispose of waste containing PCB, in order to destroy as soon as possible the waste stored in federal sites. The renting cost is \$21 million. The first mobile incinerator will go to Goose Bay, Newfoundland, where it will start burning off PCB waste now stored in federal sites in Eastern Canada. We will start with 3,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated soil. Naturally, we work with the people in the communities and hold public meetings to make sure that they understand the need to dispose of all waste contaminated by this very harmful pollutant.

In the next few months, our government will introduce, in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, regulations concerning the operation of the mobile incinerators used to destroy PCB waste.

These regulations will relate only to federal facilities and organizations, federal Crown Corporations and federal land and waters.

Last March, representatives of countries from all over the world met in Basle, Switzerland, under the aegis of the United Nation Organization on the Environment, in order to put into place a convention to regulate the transport of hazardous waste from one country to another. This is an important achievement because all the participating countries recognize that the environment is a matter of concern for everyone. There is not probably one area in the World which is not affected by the problem of toxic and contaminated waste. We do not exaggerate when we say, Mr. Speaker, that all the

countries in the World will benefit from the convention signed in Basle.

At its April 19, 1989 meeting, the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers examined the alternatives to improve the hazardous and toxic waste management system in Canada. All the Ministers recognized the challenges we will have to meet in the present and in the years to come. Therefore they decided to set programs to reduce waste produced in Canada by 50 percent by the year 2000.

Finally, I would like to take a few minutes to mention some provincial projects and programs in the area of hazardous waste management. First, in Swan Hills, in Alberta, there is a centre for the handling, treating and disposing of toxic waste. This centre uses state-of-the-art technology and sets an example for the other provinces.

In Ontario, there is a centre for treating and disposing of inorganic and organic waste. In addition, in recent years, the Ontario Waste Management Society has been getting ready to build and open a centre similar to Swan Hills.

In Québec, the Stalex company handles inorganic waste only. The Western provinces such as Manitoba and British Columbia have set up programs to find appropriate sites to build centres for processing and eliminating hazardous waste. As I already explained to you, the technology is not lacking, but there is no consensus on where to locate the facilities. However, we are making progress, Mr. Speaker, we are making progress!

Even at the municipal level, the authorities are organizing in many communities throughout Canada to have residents get rid of solvents, oils, paints and pesticides that are no longer needed and require careful handling if they are to be disposed of safely. These municipalities bring in special trucks or large containers that are then carried by truck to an appropriate treatment centre. The public does not hesitate to take part in this kind of program to collect and recycle these hazardous substances and materials because Canadians recognize, perhaps more today than ever before, how precious and irreplaceable the environment is.