

Adjournment Debate

Prime Minister signed this document on behalf of Canada, together with representatives of more than 150 countries throughout the world.

[English]

THE ECONOMY

The cornerstone of this convention was restrictions on emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. Under the framework convention, a general agreement was reached at the negotiating table—the only way to solve the problem of global warming—by adopting resolutions and reaching compromises at the international level. Developed countries, including Canada and the United States, made a political commitment to limit emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases agreed to bring emissions back to their 1990 levels by the year 2000.

I may also remind the hon. member that even before the framework convention became a reality, Canada was already committed to limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. This measure puts us in the forefront of the fight against climate change. Our objective is not regional or sectorial but truly national in scope.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments are working together to implement this objective as part of the national strategy on global warming.

The federal government believes that more substantial reductions will be necessary, but these will be undertaken only when the international community has agreed on reduction objectives and calendars, to be worked out as part of the negotiations on the UN Convention on Climate Change.

The framework convention will provide a mechanism for countries to take a co-ordinated and co-operative approach towards achieving the ultimate objective of preventing any harmful interference with the world's climate. It remains to be seen, whether the next step will be a 20 per cent reduction in emissions or something else. Canada insisted—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but the rules of this debate are very strict. I will now recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Southeast.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek guidance from the Minister of Finance, or whoever is representing him, on his economic policies.

On April 8 I asked him to retreat on his government's commitment to cap the amount of transfer payments it pays to the three so-called have provinces. One of those provinces is not only his home province but my own as well, Alberta.

Capping the cash transfers reduces severely the ability of the government of Alberta to pay for programs to retrain men and women to assist those who are unable to work. The cap now reduces the ability of the government of Alberta by about \$200 million in Alberta alone.

This corresponds with one of the greatest violations of the social contract our country has seen. At a time when the money is most needed, when Alberta residents are most anxious to retrain themselves, this unloved government has pulled the rug out from beneath many of them. On April 1 in a question I pointed out that 46,000 people were then unemployed in Edmonton. Furthermore, the number of Edmonton residents on assistance or living below the poverty line had increased by 28 per cent since the same month in 1991.

On May 1 I informed the House in Question Period that the minister's policies were wreaking havoc in his own constituency of Vegreville. Stores were closing and farm auctions were proceeding at far too great a rate. The minister replied that he did not have to be lectured on problems facing his constituents. I would suggest that he does need to be told about the problems of his constituents because it has been six months since those facts have been presented to the government and nothing has been done to try to repair the economy.

Fully 46,000 Edmontonians were out of work in April; today there are more than 50,000 unemployed persons according to Statistics Canada. What the government persists in doing is invoking myths and spreading myths about the economy. The myths are fooling nobody or very few people out there, certainly not the 1.6 million Canadians looking for work, most certainly not the 4,500