

Adjournment Debate

On February 13, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) rose in the House and announced the first ever federal regulatory policy. That statement of policy is one part of our eight-point regulatory strategy that will, by improving the management of Government, by removing obstacles to growth, and by encouraging private initiative, play a major role in the Government's agenda for economic renewal.

Our regulatory policy was developed from the work done in this area by the task force on program review. In its report, the study team provided a three-part diagnosis of Canada's regulatory situation. It pointed out that the cumulative effect of regulation at the three levels of Government constitutes an enormous impediment to economic growth, initiatives, enterprise, and personal freedom in Canada. It went on to say that elected representatives do not have adequate control over regulation and the regulatory system. Finally, it concluded this indictment by indicating that the public has too little access to and involvement in the development and review of regulation.

Our strategy is designed to respond to the problems identified by the task force. The Government House Leader has assumed the additional role of Minister responsible for Regulatory Affairs. In March of this year he provided details of 43 separate regulatory program initiatives currently being undertaken by the Government. Work is already underway on

these reforms and will lead to far-ranging practical improvements in a broad cross-section of federal regulatory programs. At the same time, the Minister announced a new citizens code of regulatory fairness. This code will provide a yardstick against which the administrative performance of the Government can be measured.

The Member for Levis has expressed particular interest in the area of federal-provincial co-operation. In response to his earlier question, the Government House Leader pointed out that preliminary meetings have already taken place on this subject between Mr. Reed Scowen, chairman of the Quebec task force, and federal officials. In this context, I want to assure the Hon. member that the Government will place priority on increased regulatory co-operation with the provinces with a view to addressing the over-all regulatory burden on Canadians and eliminating wasteful duplication.

[Translation]

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

The House adjourned at 6.29 p.m.