

Adjournment Debate

Davenport (Mr. Caccia). At that time, and in the absence of having the information and the kind of perspective we needed, Canada's Minister of the Environment instituted a government-industry task force consisting of a steering committee and three working groups. The working groups were to examine, first, the potential in Canada for Bhopal like incidents and, second, to review the measures taken by industry and Government to date in order to prevent accidents, and third, to evaluate the ability of industry and governments to respond to accidents. Therefore, in fact, we have this task force which was initiated in December of last year, in the absence of the kind of information we needed to precisely answer the questions raised by the Hon. Member.

● (1850)

In July of this year that task force distributed a discussion paper amongst the provincial agencies and industry associations, such as the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, the Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Canadian Environment, the Canadian Labour Congress, and over 25 environmental organizations, including the Friends of the Earth, Pollution Probe, and the Canadian Environmental Law Association, in order to solicit their input on the paper. The final report of the steering committee will be available later in the fall. Follow-up discussions will then take place with agen-

cies responsible for the various jurisdictional aspects of the issue.

I would also like to remind the Hon. Member of an activity which took place in the Department of the Environment over at least the last year. There has been issued what to me is a very important manual for the management of hazardous spills and wastes. I can inform him that there are two very specific papers subsequent to that, one for sulphuric acid and one for oleum, which describe in much greater detail all actions surrounding those two chemicals insofar as possible.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, all Canadians can look forward to the final report in the fall and the expansion of the work already done in Environment Canada on this subject. This will not completely replace the experience in other countries, and certainly we can do nothing directly about what has happened there, but it should put us in a position where we can look at the broad range of things involved in handling these materials competently and in a preventable, if you like, protective fashion.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 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 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6.52 p.m.