

Properly designed and operated, incinerators with EFW can reduce the need for expensive landfill sites. However, since waste products contain toxic substances that may be produced by the incinerator, we must monitor what comes out of these incinerators. We must have very strict standards that require full combustion of waste products, thus minimizing the possibility of toxic emissions.

Last year, the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers published its report on incinerators with energy-from-waste facilities. The report contains recommendations for guidelines and deals with a broad range of subjects, including the design and operation of this type of incinerator. It recognizes also the important role that reduction, reprocessing, recycling and re-use can play in waste management, for a national waste management system must put a particular emphasis on reduction and recycling, the preferred means of keeping dangerous wastes to a minimum.

Our recycling programs are still in their infancy. Only 2 per cent of our wastes are recycled, Mr. Speaker, while Western European countries are recycling 30 per cent of their waste and the Japanese more than 50 per cent. We can now recycle almost 300 000 tonnes a year of waste products, but that would naturally have to increase by 25 per cent every year.

Take for example the Waste Exchange which helps transform one company's waste into another's profits. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that that allows for the exchange of 280 000 tonnes of waste a year, a volume that will increase by 70 000 tonnes a year approximately. The value of raw matter reprocessed this way is of some \$10 millions per year. That is a real success if one considers that the annual running costs of the Waste Exchange is only \$60 000. Furthermore, the Provinces and the Canadian Government are keeping their firm commitment concerning the efficient and profitable management of waste products.

In July 1985, the Minister of Transport promulgated regulations on the transport of dangerous waste under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act. Those regulations set national uniform standards for the transportation of dangerous waste, be it by boat, train, plane or truck. They establish a national system of manifests which enables us to keep track of every shipment from its

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point of departure to its destination. The Act covers only interprovincial and international transportation. All intraprovincial transportation is of course under provincial jurisdiction. The provinces have either adopted all the regulations promulgated under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act or have made regulations similar to the federal ones.

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This is a wonderful example of federal-provincial cooperation that our government continues to promote since environmental protection concerns us all.

Furthermore, in October 1986, in Banff, Alberta, at the meeting of the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers, both levels of government approved a national dangerous waste management plan because they recognize the need to work together in order to make great strides in this area.

The national plan has four objectives. Firstly, to harmonize nationally all dangerous and toxic waste legislation as well as policies and programs, like in the case of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act which I just mentioned. Secondly, to reduce the quantities of dangerous wastes which need to be treated, and that is another objective that has been at least partially achieved through the waste materials exchange I spoke about earlier. Thirdly, to promote cooperation in the location and establishment of centralized dangerous waste treatment and disposal facilities. And fourthly, to promote public awareness of the complexity of the problem of dangerous wastes.

But, Mr. Speaker, the federal and provincial ministers have not been idle since their 1986 meeting in Banff. On June 30 1988, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act came into effect. It enables us to regulate all aspects of the life cycle of toxic wastes from their production to their final disposal. That act is something else! As far as the government of Canada is concerned, it serves as the framework for its future initiatives, policies and programs relating to environmental protection. We are prepared to recognize the fact that the legislation is not perfect, that it can still be improved. However, as we learn more about the most efficient ways of protecting our environment, including the best possible waste management system, we will undoubtedly act in the best interests of all Canadians.