

*Adjournment Debate*

existing terms and conditions to include individuals called fish handlers and assemblers. These individuals are employed by firms contracted by designated fish plants to unload, weigh, grade, ice and load fish at the docks. This type of work is normally associated with a fish processing operation and therefore these individuals have been deemed to be plant workers under the existing terms and conditions.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has established two independent review committees, one each for fishermen and plant workers, to enable individuals regarded as ineligible by DFO to appeal their eligibility under NCARP. These committees consider individuals who have an acceptable historical attachment to the northern cod fishery but do not meet the program's criteria for automatic eligibility due to exceptional circumstances. A total of 468 appeals has been heard by the two committees up to November 10, and more than 300 additional appeals has been requested.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, the issue that was discussed following an intervention last May has to do with the question of climate change and global warming.

As you know, scientists are telling us that in every part of the world, the north and the south, the rich and the poor nations, something is likely to happen by way of climate change and by way of global warming caused by carbon dioxide which is the product of energy consumption in human society.

This is an issue that has been raised by scientists on a number of occasions in recent years. There are signs of warning because climate change as a result of global warming will lead to an elevation in sea levels in many parts of the world, and therefore to dislocation of millions of people who will have to move from areas which will be submerged as a result of sea level rise.

The Government of Canada has made the right speeches and made the right declaration over time. May I recall to you that in The Hague in 1989 the Prime Minister of Canada said that Canada would play a leading role in the question of reducing carbon dioxide

emissions in an attempt to modify this trend in climate change.

Since then countries like Germany, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia and The Netherlands have committed themselves to reduce by 20 per cent their carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2005. Canada has decided not to follow this example. It simply announced some time ago that it would stabilize its carbon dioxide emissions, using 1990 as the base year, by the year 2000.

Until now we have not heard any statement from the government any indicating Canada's plan with respect to how it intends to achieve this stabilization by the year 2000. We do not know which sector has been approached and which sector has agreed on stabilization of carbon dioxide emissions, be it transportation, agriculture or energy. There is total silence from the government benches.

• (1810)

We do not know whether the government has approached the provincial governments or whether Ottawa has arrived at agreements with the provincial governments so that nationally we can develop a program for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

In other words, four years after The Hague declaration by the Prime Minister of Canada in which a promise was made to the nation and to the world that we would be the leaders in the field of carbon dioxide emission reduction, there is silence from the government. There is no indication of a precise timetable and approaches as to how this target will be reached by the year 2000.

Not only that, we have also not adopted the more intelligent, I submit, approach, namely that of pursuing energy efficiency as adopted by other nations.

I am really anxious to hear the parliamentary secretary as to where we are at this stage.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. member that one of the great achievements of the earth summit held in Rio last June was the commitment made by the international community to take action against global warming through an international framework convention on climate change. The