

### Oral Questions

Given that, Canadian families know that the price of medicine has risen dramatically, why does the government refuse, given its false promises, to roll back the cost of medicine being currently charged to Canadian families and hospitals against the commitments of this government?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Madam Speaker, as for quoting a former minister of consumer affairs, I might quote one myself. Judy Erola was a minister of consumer affairs and she considers this government's position good. She was a Liberal minister, if I am not mistaken. What we did in 1987 was to align Canadian legislation with what was going on in other parts of the world, so that now Canadian researchers can work here in Canada to improve medication and create new drugs to treat Canadians. That is what we wanted to do with Bill C-22. The price of patent medicine over which we have jurisdiction has not gone up more than inflation, despite what members opposite seem to be saying.

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[English]

### THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister.

As the Acting Prime Minister will know, the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development will begin in Rio de Janeiro in less than three weeks.

A little less than three months ago, the Standing Committee on Energy, Mines and Resources tabled its interim report. Contained in that report was a series of recommendations to which the standing committee requested a response. No response thus far has been forthcoming and the UNCED deadline is drawing near.

I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the government has accepted the standing committee's recommendation No. 3 to, and I quote from the report: "seek a global commitment to a reduction of total global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent

from 1990 levels by the year 2005 to be achieved by co-ordinated global efforts". Has the government accepted that recommendation and will it be working for it in Brazil?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows that the Standing Orders of the House allow the government 150 days in which to report, as was discussed with members of the committee. The hon. member is possibly trying to create the impression that the government is not willing to respond. The government is responding.

The Minister of the Environment has clearly stated many times that the issue of the Canadian position in Rio is one that has been established for some period of time, namely on stabilization based on 1990.

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Madam Speaker, a supplementary question. The problem, of course, is that the 150 days does not expire until July 23. If we are to have a response from the government prior to the commencement of the UNCED conference, we must have it very soon.

Let me ask as a supplementary question whether the government has accepted now, as policy, the fourth recommendation of the standing committee which is: "the federal government instruct the Canadian UNCED delegation to support proposals to facilitate Canada taking global action such as contributing financially and through technology transfer, to emissions reduction efforts in other countries".

Has the government accepted that recommendation? Will it pursue that goal in Brazil?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, my first answer applies also to this recommendation concerning the Standing Orders of the House. The government will reply at the appropriate time.

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### EMPLOYMENT

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Madam Speaker, we have been listening to the responses of the Minister of Employment and Immigration and we certainly agree with him that he has revolutionized the social welfare programs.