

Oral Questions

I will send a copy of this memo to the minister. How can we do this to the safety and security of our airports for the sake of saving just a few bucks in this area?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my hon. friend that when I visited the units that my hon. friend talks about, it certainly was not a matter of simply walking in. There were the security precautions that the airport personnel and the director of security felt were necessary.

As I said, I will certainly take this up with him and be prepared to report back to my friend.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the members' attention the presence in the gallery of Dr. The Honourable David Carter, Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly and Chairman of the Second Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Acting Prime Minister. I am sure he is aware that the world's leading scientists have concluded that global warming has begun and that immediate cuts of more than 60 per cent are required for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and CFCs. All of those cuts are required to halt this dangerous process.

The call of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is that we should not wait but we should make those cuts immediately and the ministers in Bergen, including Canada's representative, agreed to take action following the Fridays' release of the IPCC. Will the Acting Prime Minister today commit Canada to at least what was adopted in Toronto, a 20 per cent reduction from 1988 levels of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere from Canada by the year 2005?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to confirm to the House that the government and the majority of

nations participating together at the Bergen conference agreed, as a first step, that greenhouse gases should be stabilized from present levels by the year 2000.

I can also advise the member, as he and others know, that Canada has been a very important member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Our scientists have been playing a very leading role. We are looking forward to participating in the Geneva conference in November, at which time we will make known our commitment, our schedules, and our targets.

In the meantime, the Hon. Minister of the Environment today is in Halifax for the second of *The Green Plan* consultation meetings. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I were in Winnipeg for the first meetings on Thursday and Friday of last week. We look forward to working in co-operation with citizens from across the country and provincial governments in ensuring that the targets and schedules, when in place, will have the support of Canadians. It will be a very significant step forward in leading to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Right Hon. Acting Prime Minister. I assume that Cabinet and the government have had a chance to think about the seriousness of global warming and the fact that conferences, one after another, have been calling for targets and timetables.

The Acting Prime Minister's government asked for time of the House and of the country until the IPCC reported. It reported on Friday and called for immediate cuts, not cuts in the year 2000, or 2005, but immediate cuts of 60 per cent of CO₂, NO₂, and CFCs.

Could the Acting Prime Minister tell us, is there going to be an announcement on targets, timetables, and schedules for these reductions, or does the government not take this global crisis seriously?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed there will be targets and schedules. They will be announced in the House well in advance of the meeting in November in Geneva, at which this country together with many other countries, will put in place firm schedules and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.