

Routine Proceedings

• (1550)

The committee dealt at length with the discrepancy between statistics and chose on page 56 of our report to print both the World Resources Institute figures and the Canadian Gas Association figures with a recommendation for an urgent investigation of Canadian Gas Association data through an independent survey.

This is an extremely serious issue because the Canadian Gas Association claimed to be less than 10 per cent of anthropogenic emissions in Canada, whereas the World Resources Institute, even though it has since reduced its estimate, is listed in our report as being 30 per cent of emissions, methane being a very serious contributor.

I believe this is a question of privilege, and I therefore move that this matter be placed before the appropriate committee, the Standing Committee on Privileges and Election, for consideration.

Although the chair of the committee is not present today, in his letter to me there is one paragraph that sums up the difficulty that all members of the committee have encountered in this situation regarding methane release. I quote from the letter of July 17 to me from the member for Rosedale, our committee chair:

From that letter the CGA wrote a draft press release and sent me a copy. I was greatly disturbed by the wording of the release and immediately contacted the CGA to voice my disapproval. They agreed to accept suggestions for changes and incorporated them into yet another draft release.

Again I voiced my disapproval with the very negative tone of the press release and the strong language used to describe the negligence of the committee. I was so disturbed that I informed the association that I would surely go public with our own version of how the WRI data was used and why. It was sure to be very different from the CGA report.

One final note from the paragraph on the second page:

I tried to make it clear to the CGA that the committee's report was not misleading as their release indicated, and that we nor the CGA were aware until our report came out that WRI had published a retraction on its figures.

I close with that. I believe it is a serious matter, because the CGA press release was widely distributed and there surely is not a more important issue on earth, short of all-out nuclear war, that deserves accurate, forthright information than global warming.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for Skeena for bringing the details of this issue to my attention prior to today. I think I should say to hon. members that I have read very carefully the letter the hon. member quoted from the hon. for Rosedale who is the chairperson of the committee in question.

Clearly the hon. member for Skeena and also the chairperson of the committee, the hon. member for Rosedale, are concerned about what happened. The House has heard the facts, but I think the appropriate thing to do at this time is to raise the matter at the very earliest convenience at the committee. After that is done, I may be able to deal with the matter further.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS*[English]***INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION****REPORT OF CANADIAN GROUP**

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34.1, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian Group of the Interparliamentary Union which represented Canada at the Seventh Interparliamentary Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe in Vienna, Austria, July 1 to July 3, 1991.

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*[Translation]***PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION ACT****MEASURE TO ENACT**

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-29, an Act respecting compensation of the public sector of Canada and to amend another Act in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.