

Adjournment Debate

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can paraphrase what the minister was saying. He has indicated his concern that the 1984 cabinet guidelines order is unclear but that he believes the regulations to be included in Bill C-78 will clear that up.

I am sure the member is aware of the problems surrounding the Rafferty-Alameda, the conflict between the federal and provincial governments on the Oldman River dam, as well as in relation to Alcan's Kemano completion project in British Columbia that was exempted from the existing guidelines by Order in Council.

The member has stated for the record that he believes that one of the problems with the existing 1984 cabinet guidelines order is that it is unclear. He also suggests that there should be a clearly understood mandatory list where environmental assessments are applied automatically. Would the member not agree that those three projects—the Rafferty-Alameda, the Oldman River dam project and the Kemano completion project—are precisely the kinds of projects that should undergo a full public environmental assessment?

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's question and comments with respect to this bill. They indicate that he shares my concern and the government's concern to put this piece of legislation into place as rapidly as we possibly can.

The old 1984 guidelines were full of flaws and problems. They were certainly unclear. They were intended to be merely voluntary guidelines and nothing else. This piece of legislation will clearly change all that. It will be a change for the better, a great improvement.

I know the hon. member agrees with that and I know the hon. member will want to urge his colleagues to pass this legislation very quickly. He has about one minute left this evening. I would suggest that we allow this bill to pass on second reading unanimously right now.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 1990, I directed a question to the Prime Minister with regard to the imposing of GST on children's clothing, boots, and on the heat that keeps them alive in the winter. I had a very unsatisfactory answer to my question.

On September 30, 1990, our Prime Minister was addressing the United Nations, some 70 leaders, regarding child poverty in the world.

• (1900)

I was very pleased to see the Prime Minister taking a leadership role outside our country with regard to children. I think that it is extremely important that we think of our children because our children are our future. However, I would certainly much prefer to see him take a leadership role here in Canada with regard to our children.

When we talk about our children and the GST, we must realize that this tax will, for the first time, impose a federal sales tax on children's clothing. Anyone who has raised a family, who has had children in this country, knows how difficult it is to keep a child adequately dressed for winter conditions. One cannot say: "He will be fine," or "She will be fine". We know they grow very quickly. In the wintertime they need skidoo suits, boots, mitts, gloves, and hats. Children being children, they grow. They outgrow these things. They lose their mitts. They lose their hats. So the parents have got out and buy more. All of this now will be taxed.

We also know that one-third of all of our children in Canada live in poverty. You will say to me, Mr. Speaker: "We have this tax credit, this wonderful tax credit". Let me begin to tell you that this will not come close to