

Oral Questions

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Labour is away on government business today. I will pass on the member's question to him.

The information I have is that mediation is going on. Without having any details on the matter, it is worth remembering that mediation does involve the parties and mediation can do so much to bring parties together. However, fundamentally it is for the parties to reach an agreement among themselves at the end of the day.

As far as the other incidents she alludes to, there is a great deal of concern in this House about incidents around this strike. We all feel deeply that these are sad events when they occur. I understand there is also an investigation going on and hopefully it will lead to some conclusion.

Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. Despite the horrific level of violence and the tragedy that has taken place, the minister responsible, who has sole jurisdiction and responsibility federally because we have no territorial labour legislation, has done next to nothing to resolve the situation.

I have asked this government time and time again to take a course of action. I have asked the minister responsible to travel to Yellowknife, NWT to see firsthand what is going on. Is the minister prepared to station someone from the labour department in Yellowknife to personally experience what the people there are experiencing, the terror and the tension? Perhaps then he would take responsible action. He would do the responsible thing and take a course of action to find a resolution to this very sad situation.

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, from the member's question, she is alluding to two areas of responsibility. One is the labour dispute itself and I will certainly convey the question to my colleague. I guess I can only reiterate that at the end of the day it is the parties that have to come to an agreement. It is not the minister who can do that or a mediator for them.

On the allegation of violence, the Solicitor General's office will be interested in those comments. I assume

that if the member has any specific information about any possible violence that she would bring that to the attention of the appropriate officials.

Mrs. Blondin-Andrew: Just ask the RCMP. They put out a report every day.

Mr. Charest: I assume the member will bring that to the attention of those officials and the authorities who have the responsibility for enforcing the law.

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[Translation]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

For several months, the people of Abitibi and northern Quebec have been worried about the ozone layer.

We all know that you are a man of action and I wonder what Canada's position will be at the meeting on world environment in Copenhagen next week. Is the purpose to follow up on the Montreal Protocol and protect the ozone layer?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, indeed, this whole issue of ozone depletion is a great worry for the public. Here in Canada we have a protocol named after a very important Canadian city, Montreal. Canada has always been a leader in this field.

The meeting in Copenhagen will enable the participants to review the provisions of the protocol as such. Canada has already taken a position, with the provinces' support, to speed up the elimination of CFC's by 1995. I will not go into details here, but other substances will also be dealt with.

Madam Speaker, Canada will also insist on recycling and recovering CFC's. Here again, the provinces have put forward regulations dealing with those issues. This is within their jurisdiction.

• (1150)

I am pleased to tell you today that there is a consensus across the country on these issues and we will urge the international community to do the same.