

Adjournment Debate

Having arrived at this conclusion some three years ago, some nations decided to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and some decided only to stabilize them. Canada is in this second group and made an announcement to this effect three years ago. It has said that by the year 2000 it will stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, taking 1990 as the base.

Having made this announcement we still have to see the Government of Canada produce a plan. It is a source of frustration and anger to see this government send the Minister of the Environment and the Prime Minister abroad where they make substantial speeches conveying the impression that Canada is moving on this item. Yet here at home not even a plan has been prepared.

By contrast, President Clinton announced in April that the United States will have a plan to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by August of this year. This means that the United States will have a plan ready in five months, whereas we in three years have not yet been able to put one together.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why the minister of energy seems to be standing in the way by not allowing a vigorous program in energy efficiency at least to be launched in order to achieve this carbon dioxide or this greenhouse gases stabilization. Why is the federal government creating the impression that it has to be dragged reluctantly into the 21st century in the last decade of the 20th century? It is hard to understand.

The facts speak for themselves. When he appeared before the Standing Committee on the Environment, Jim MacNeill, the former secretary-general of the Brundtland commission said: "For every dollar of the Canadian taxpayers' money the Canadian federal government spends to promote energy efficiency, it spends over \$100 to encourage or support the fossil fuel industry and thereby incidentally encourages more acid rain and global warming".

Mr. MacNeill makes a very important point because it is the dependence on fossil fuels that leads to the creation of greenhouse gases which we want to at least stabilize if not reduce in the interest of the world community.

I have conducted studies on the 1991 income tax returns and the value of tax deductions by the oil and gas industry amounted to \$4.9 billion. With these tax deductions the government lost at least \$500 million in revenue. Then I notice that the current direct expendi-

tures by the federal government to the energy sector are close to \$700 million. Only 5 per cent of that amount goes to research and development on alternative sources of energy.

In essence the government has to introduce a plan that is based on efficiency in our use of energy. Based on adequate research and development it must permit the shift from non-renewable to renewable sources of energy. Neither of these is apparently taking place in Canada.

Mr. Lee Richardson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, greenhouse gas emissions are associated with every aspect of the Canadian economy and in the everyday decisions of all orders of government, business, industry and even individual Canadians. To be cost effective and successful Canada's national action plan must present and represent a national partnership to be developed in an open, transparent manner and define clear accountabilities for all the stakeholders.

In the green plan the federal government announced its initial contribution to a national action plan. A number of the provinces are bringing forward their initial measures, as are several municipalities, and we are listening. Canadian business and industry are taking many actions that will reduce emissions. We are assessing the extent to which these actions will take us toward our national goal of stabilizing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled under the Montreal protocol at 1990 levels by the year 2000. We are putting in place processes to bring all stakeholders together to begin considering the nature and scope of further actions.

• (1820)

At the earth summit we made a commitment to prepare a national report on what Canada was doing to implement the terms and conditions of the climate change convention, including the actions being taken to reduce emissions. That report will be completed later this month.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House three times in less than two months to raise the issue of sexual harassment in the military. My colleagues from Halifax and Nepean have equally risen to raise the issue of sexual harassment