

One thing about my colleague's statement.... I want to be fair to him. I spent part of the week with him in Washington at this White House conference. The night before the second day of the conference we had a large meeting of the Canadian delegation, and I was supposed to, and in fact I did, chair one of the working sessions of the second day, which was very important for us. I drafted a speech. Then during our meeting I had a lengthy discussion and consultation with Jake Epp, my fellow Minister of Energy in this Cabinet. We agreed we must put in this speech a commitment to include in the "Green Plan" of the fall the commitment that there would be targets and schedules in it.

So there is no difference of view, there are no bones of contention between Jake Epp and me. I would like to clear up the record by saying that one of the most supportive ministers in the Cabinet environment committee is Jake Epp. We work very closely together. I have no problem with Jake Epp at all. Sometimes it is difficult to reconcile the different reports coming from the different parts of the country on what we say, because we are doing a lot of scrums. But the bottom line is that we have a joint commitment to have targets and schedules.

What will the levels be? Well, of course we are still working on it. For example, you referred to the German commitment, which will come, we understand, maybe in Bergen or in Geneva, to a reduction of 25%. Well, we have worked with the Germans. My deputy has sat down with the German deputy and we have a fair knowledge of the kinds of measures they will use to reach 25%. The list of the energy conservation measures they have in mind, for example, and which in their appreciation would result in a 25% reduction, when applied to Canada would give a figure of about 10% or 12%.

So we have a problem to reconcile those data, because the data are not uniform. We still have to know more—and we are working very actively on this—in terms of a grill to assess the different data from the different parts of the world. But the kind of things you could do in Canada would end up in a 10% reduction.

We would like to do better. We do not know if we can. But we have to be responsible. We are the kind of country...I do not want to say anything negative about the other countries, but our culture in North America, and mainly in Canada, is that if we make a commitment, if we say in the year 2005 we will have achieved a 20% reduction—suppose we say that—at the same time we will have to say what measures will be implemented to achieve this. We have to establish the cost. We have to know exactly what the down-side would be to the economy, what kind of compensation we will have to establish. People will not believe us if we do it otherwise.

So the day we make a commitment we will fulfil it. We will say how it will be achieved, and it will be serious.