

Oral Questions

• (1430)

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, the minister will certainly have the support of Arctic Canadians, but there have been many recommendations on which he should act now.

I would raise an issue on CO₂ emissions and the lack of action by this government. Yesterday, we saw the Senate in the United States at least taking some direct action on SO₂ emissions, and in fact the member of Parliament for Parry Sound congratulating the Senate on doing that.

The minister knows full well that global warming will have extreme consequences in the Arctic. When will the minister take some leadership for Canada on the CO₂ emissions and in setting those targets by 2005?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I wish the leader of the New Democratic Party would recognize the tremendous role that Canada has played in bringing the United States to this vote.

We all know that the acid rain issue was never raised in any meeting between the President of the United States and the former Prime Minister. Prime Minister Mulroney made it happen, and we should be proud of that as a country. As Canadians, this should be the day we enjoy it and be proud of it.

As far as CO₂ emissions are concerned, we all know that Canada is at the forefront of countries fighting this pollution problem. We have made commitments on this. The consultation process will give Canadians the opportunity to tell us what they will be ready to pay for and what they will be ready to accept in terms of radical changes. I trust that it will be a joint enterprise.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. At a time when language tensions are escalating in this country, the government has done nothing to implement Bill C-72, which was passed by this House 20 months ago to promote bilingualism and to deal with such issues.

In August, 1989 the President of the Treasury Board told this House that regulations relating to the Official Languages Act would be tabled before the end of last year. This morning, the media reported that the minister now has said that they would be tabled some time after June 23. When after June 23? What year?

I want to ask the Prime Minister or the Acting Prime Minister, will he give us a date when these regulations will be tabled and we can deal with these issues in this country?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to answer my hon. colleague's allegation that I mentioned June 23 as any kind of a date relating to the regulations. Never, never.

Mr. Gauthier: You said that and we have you on tape.

Mr. de Cotret: I would like to have a copy, because I never said that.

The regulations will be tabled in this House as soon as the process set out and agreed to by all members of the House who voted for Bill C-72 is fully completed. They are well on the way. We have worked assiduously to complete the regulations, to go through the consultation process, to revise the regulations as a result of the consultations and to finalize those consultations as of now.

As soon as those are finalized, we will be tabling the regulations in this House.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, if the government is doing such a great job, why is the Commissioner of Official Languages threatening to quit his job?

We have contacted the different language associations in this country, and they have stated that they have already consulted with the government.

The Commissioner of Official Languages said that 80 per cent of federal institutions are not applying the 1988 Official Languages Act. He said: "Who is to blame when you are listening to a symphony and it is poorly played? You can say that the conductor has an important role in this."

Once again I want to ask the minister when will he table the regulations? Can he give us an exact date when