

Adjournment Debate

Syncrude and responsible for setting national emission standards, plan to take?

Is the minister serious about protecting the environment? Will she press the Alberta government to lower its emission levels? Will she introduce national air quality standards, or can we expect only pious statements and token legislation?

Mr. Len Marchand (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker I thank the hon. member for his persistence in bringing this most important question back to the House of Commons. My answer will be relatively short.

The Alberta decision to permit emissions of 287 long tons per day of sulphur dioxide referred to by the hon. member is not a recent one. It was in fact made in July of 1973. Environment Canada's view on this matter was contained in the document tabled in the House by the Minis-

ter of the Environment (Mrs. Sauvé) to which the hon. member referred as the environmental impact study of August, 1974. As the hon. member pointed out, Environment Canada's recommendation was to limit sulphur dioxide emissions from the Syncrude plant to 40 tons a day. It is not intended at the present time to introduce any new federal anti-air pollution standards for this purpose.

The government has not by any means exhausted its efforts to have its views adopted by Alberta and by Syn-crude. The federal government has recently become even more closely involved in this matter through our financial participation in the Syncrude project, and this can only help us in our efforts to ensure that the environment is protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.24 p.m.