

Adjournment Debate

Canada joined with the majority of the ECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in expressing the view that such stabilization at the latest by the year 2000 and at present levels must be the first step.

Obviously all ministers of the Government of Canada accept the undertakings formally made at the international forum without underestimating the significance of targets that may be agreed upon internationally. The more relevant question concerns what specific actions we are prepared to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The government recognizes the importance of this issue, and it has a process in place to deal with it. During the spring and summer it held consultations with stakeholders in all parts of Canada to obtain advice on this and other environmental issues. It is now in the final stages of preparing its green plan which will be published later this year. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and his officials have been working very closely with the Minister of the Environment in the development of the plan. The plan will set out a number of significant measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. These will include measures to improve energy efficiency and to develop alternate sources of energy.

These measures will be concrete steps which the federal government will take to address the issue of global warming and carbon dioxide emissions; but the federal government is only one of the several actors involved. If Canada is to achieve a national emissions target it will require a national effort. Our provincial colleagues also have important areas of jurisdiction in terms of energy matters. Their contributions will be vital to achieving emission targets. Municipalities can play an important role and the industry's full participation will also be necessary. Last but not least will be the actions that every Canadian can take in addressing the issue of global warming.

It has been an honour for me to address this question.

• (1810)

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pursue a question which I asked in this House on March 8, 1990 of the Minister of Justice.

At that time I asked the Minister of Justice when the Conservative government would finally keep the promise that was made over four years ago to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction.

That was a commitment or a promise that was made to all Canadians; not just to lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in Canada but to all Canadians. I would point out that there is serious discrimination in Canada on the basis of sexual orientation.

Indeed the Canadian Human Rights Commission has noted, in its annual report of earlier this spring, that the government's indifference in this regard has contributed to a very serious increase in the level of homophobia and marginalization in our society.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission went on to state that further delay in the amendments that were proposed to the Canadian Human Rights Act would surely bring into serious question the federal government's commitment to human rights principles.

In hearings before the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Disabled later in the spring the Minister of Justice indicated that in fact she would be tabling a package of amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act this fall, some four and a half years after the original promise was made.

As well, the government promised sometime ago—and I am speaking now of the former Minister of Justice, the hon. member for St. John's West who is now the Minister for International Trade—that the Canadian Human Rights Act would be amended to incorporate the principle of reasonable accommodation, which has been described by the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped as one of the most important, if not the most important the most pressing, human rights issue facing the disabled. That is to be part of this package of Human Rights Act amendments.

Now the fall is here and once again it appears that this government is afraid to move on a question of fundamental justice and equality.

This is not merely a question of words in an act. We are talking about human lives. We are talking about people being treated with dignity, respect, and full justice. We are talking about the reality of the lives of too many lesbians and gay men who are victims of violence, of gay bashing, and who are afraid to report that to the