

Canada is supposed to be committed to the reduction of acid rain by 50 per cent by 1994. What is the Minister's plan of action?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Hon. Member would ask such a question. He knows very well, or should, that we have developed a plan of action over the months which would be too long to explain in a short answer.

In essence, we have brought together a political commitment on the part of provincial and federal Ministers of the Environment to cut emissions by half by 1994. We followed that up shortly afterwards with an international conference here in Ottawa which permitted us to obtain the support and a pledge by nine European countries, in addition to Canada, for a commitment to a minimum cut of 30 per cent by 1993. On June 6 provincial and federal Ministers of the Environment met as a working group to set into motion the various aspects related to the economy and technology which are needed to reach this objective.

● (1500)

Thanks to the efforts of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, we have also produced a paper for the modernization of non ferrous metals in Canada which would permit us in the years ahead, in the wake of modernization, to bring about a cleaning up of the pollution caused by this industry, and increase productivity in order to permit us to remain competitive on international markets.

Mr. Gurbin: What the Minister has just done is confirm that he has no plan of action.

PLAN OF ACTION

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will know that the Government's words are empty and hollow unless he has a specific plan of action to reduce acid rain. In view of the jobs, the industry, and the environmental impact, will he undertake to put before the House a specific plan of action to reduce acid rain, by the end of June of this year?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I cannot substitute for the incapacity of the Hon. Member or his colleagues on that side to interpret answers. He knows very well that we have set a plan in action and that we have already made progress since 1980 by cutting SO₂ emissions in this country by some 15 per cent. He also knows that we have announced a reduction in lead in gasoline by the end of 1986. He also knows that the Minister of Transport and I have made plans for consultation about NO_x with industry this summer. He also knows that we have a plan of action in Canada already in place today, which our neighbours to the south do not have, for a reduction by 25 per cent by 1990. In addition, there are other commitments that have been made before the production of the report by Energy, Mines and Resources. If the Hon. Member considers that as no plan, I am sorry, I cannot help him.

Business of the House

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed Bill C-39, an Act to amend the War Veterans' Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and certain other Acts in relation thereto, without amendment.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House,
Ottawa.

June 14, 1984

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Brian Dickson, Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today the 14th day of June, 1984, at 4.30 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière,
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General.

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PETITION

MR. STEVENS—HOME MAIL DELIVERY IN BOLTON, ONTARIO

Mr. Speaker: The petition presented by the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens) on Wednesday, June 13, 1984, does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader if he could outline for us the business of the House starting on Monday of next week. As he knows, we will not be sitting tomorrow. While we have a tradition of asking about House business on Thursdays, in view of the fact that there will be a new leader of the Liberal Party after this week, I thought I might have asked the question on Monday because any new Prime Minister would probably reject out of hand all the legislative initiative taken by the Government. However, I will not do that. I will let the Government House Leader let us know what he has in mind