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## KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION BILL

Second Reading of Bill C-288

Speech by:

**The Honourable Claudette Tardif**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007**

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

[Translation]

### KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION BILL

#### SECOND READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Mitchell, seconded by the Honourable Senator Trenholme Counsell, for the second reading of Bill C-288, An Act to ensure Canada meets its global climate change obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.—(*Honourable Senator Tkachuk*)

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I rise today to express deep disappointment on my own behalf and on behalf of senators on this side with respect to statements made about the priority given to Bill C-288.

As you know, Bill C-288 is a priority to Canadians and to senators on this side of the chamber. Honourable senators, the Senate received Bill C-288, which aims to ensure Canada meets its global climate change obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, on February 15, 2007. The night before, on February 14, this bill was passed by a majority of the members at the other place. On February 20, in other words, at the next sitting of the Senate, Senator Mitchell spoke at second reading of this important bill.

After that, the government was in no rush to have its representative take the floor. While other senators expressed their interest in talking about this highly important bill as soon as possible, in a spirit of cooperation and respect for the traditions and customs of this place, we agreed, in good faith, to derogate from Rule 37(3) in order to allow some of our honourable colleagues to take part in the debate on this very important subject, without encroaching on the 45 minutes promised to the government representative in the Senate.

We reached this temporary agreement in good faith and in a spirit of cooperation, despite the fact that we wanted to proceed as soon as possible.

[English]

Honourable senators, you can therefore imagine both my colleagues' and my own dismay and extreme disappointment when reading the comments that were made by the Leader of the Government to *The Hill Times*. According to *The Hill Times*, the Leader of the Government said that she does not detect a lot of urgency on the part of the opposition. "They certainly haven't been pressing us to get moving on this."

That is not the case, honourable senators. That statement is a complete falsehood. In fact, our side has conveyed to the government side the high importance of this bill and our wish to proceed as quickly as possible. In his remarks, Senator Mitchell said, and I quote, "What is required is something that we are not getting, and that is leadership."

Our honourable colleague Senator Chaput said in her speech — and I quote, honourable senators: "I would not want us to spend too much time playing politics when our planet's future and my grandchildren's future are at stake."

There was no doubt that we wanted to proceed as soon as possible. We entered into a temporary agreement as a courtesy to our colleagues on the other side, and now it seems that we on this side are deemed to be moving too slowly on something that is so important to Canadians and to the future of our planet. This government, your side, calls on us to be quick and efficient. Since, according to your leader, you do not need time, we urge that this chamber proceed today to adopt this bill at second reading so that we can send it to committee immediately.

Honourable senators, I move that the motion for second reading of Bill C-288 be adopted.