

land on the chopping block. It is up to us on all sides of the House to ensure that that does not take place.

While cuts in environmental programs and while cutting back on monitoring the circumstances of our biosphere may indeed have a marginal impact upon reducing the dollar deficit about which everyone is perforce concerned, we must recognize that in this case we are simply substituting a major environmental deficit for a dollar deficit. That environmental deficit in the long term will result in many, many times the impact or the value of a cutting exercise.

Unfortunately I am nearing the end of my comments this afternoon. I see I have approximately four minutes remaining in which I should like to talk about the great St. Lawrence system that in part is the subject of the motion. The motion calls for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to be extended to include toxic substance control programs and to restore water quality in the Niagara, St. Clair, and St. Lawrence Rivers.

My home is in Montreal, a great and vibrant metropolis. It is on an island at the confluence of two wonderful rivers—the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River. It is surrounded by lakes, by beaches, by smaller islands, by rapids, and by inlets. The area should be an absolute paradise for fishing, swimming, sailing, canoeing—all manner of water sports and recreation. As well, of course, it should provide good drinking water for the population of the area. Effectively the waterways are sewers. They have been polluted through decades of wasteful and thoughtless abuse.

I have already mentioned the historic Lachine Canal. Some years ago a group came to me and asked, because the Lachine Canal cuts through my riding, whether it could hold a canoe race on that canal as part of the summer games. When we applied for permission to conduct such a race, it was denied because the pollution level of the canal was so high that it was

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considered to be a health hazard, not to swimmers, not to water-skiers, but to canoeists. Parks Canada denied our people, with good reason, the right to conduct a canoe race on the Lachine Canal.

I should like to refer to one last example which I do not think is partisan but concerns another Liberal function.

[*Translation*]

Last year, we had the Liberal Associations from approximately three or four constituencies together for an evening boat tour on the St. Lawrence River. It was a grand night. There was dancing, there was a buffet, etc., and during that tour with my colleagues, my wife, my children, my friends, my friend the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) who was also there, I was struck by the fact that it was impossible to have a swim in the St. Lawrence River, that swimming was dangerous. Despite that beauty all around us, we were cruising around on a completely polluted river.

[*English*]

It is a wonderful area to which the public is effectively denied access and is at risk, if it accepts access, of being ill and effectively using a sewer, which drains the Great Lakes, for recreational purposes. It is a situation we can no longer tolerate.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. It being 5 p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 82(12), the proceedings on the motion have expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 3(2), this House stands adjourned until next Tuesday at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 5 p.m.