

Adjournment Debate

the word implies, as it was before? That is what reinstating means. Does it mean reinstating the full-time scientists, three of them at least, who conducted bio-effects analysis? Does it mean more than just the collection of eggs, but the examination of contents? By examination we will know what the long-term effects are on human health.

The statement in *Hansard* raises a number of questions. We would like to know whether the new fund announced only a week ago for toxic studies on wild life will support these activities. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wildlife Service was cut by some \$4 million last November with a loss of some 70 scientists and technicians. Will this fund permit the continuation of these activities at the Burlington Centre on sea-gull eggs? To what extent is the new fund going to pick up the earlier work? It is a new fund in the amount of \$1 million a year. Previously it was some \$4 million. Therein lies the importance of the meaning of the word reinstated. The importance will, I am sure, not escape the Parliamentary Secretary.

● (1805)

We have heard a number of rather unhappy statements from this Government about other environmental areas. We have not seen much happiness in the country as a result of last week's statements by the Minister on the future of parks. The reference to possible mining and logging has caused an incredible amount of unhappiness from Newfoundland to British Columbia. After a visit to the Niagara River, which incidentally took place after eight months in office, the Minister was quoted as saying that the water in the Great Lakes is becoming better, following the acknowledgement that toxicity in fish found at the mouth of the Niagara River is increasing. No commitment has been made on South Moresby, despite a number of interventions from Members on every side of this House, including the Government side. Having found a disposition to proceed with acid rain as a result of the previous Government's activities, there has been no action taken by this Government internationally, *vis-à-vis* the United States, in order to encourage them to join some other 20 nations in the signing of the protocol at Helsinki next month. This Government has been totally silent on that front, yet this matter is crucial now, and becomes even more so as every week goes by and we approach the date of the signing of the protocol.

You will understand, Mr. Speaker, why it is becoming imperative that this Minister, when giving an answer in the House, be clear in what she says. If reinstating the program of sea-gull egg analysis at the Burlington Centre and monitoring continuation means what the words mean, as it did before, then of course we are glad to hear that. We will be glad to know that perhaps the activities of the wildlife services as they existed until November of 1984 will be re-established. Hence, Mr. Speaker, you will understand the necessity of putting this question to the Parliamentary Secretary, so as to understand clearly what the word "reinstating" means as far as this particular program is concerned.

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member from

Davenport (Mr. Caccia) included a number of interesting notions in his preamble. I will not have an opportunity to respond to all of them, but certainly I will try to answer as precisely as possible the specific question he asked initially in the House on May 22, and that he ended with today.

The one comment I would add is that the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier), while visiting the very serious situation in the Love Canal and other areas on the American side, in viewing those directly, was doing that subsequent to visitations made by myself and other Members of Parliament some months ago, and with information that had come to her along the way. In fairness, Mr. Speaker, she did that within a much less period of time than did the Hon. Member for Davenport, who was the Minister of the Environment in the last Government. I do not think he has visited Inco even yet. I do not know whether or not he really saw what he was dealing with in Sudbury. The Minister of the Environment did take it upon herself to go and see directly what the serious nature of the problem was.

I am really happy with the tone that the Hon. Member from Davenport has taken because I think I can come directly and precisely to the question—

Mr. Caccia: Answer the question and stop fiddling around with other issues.

Mr. Gurbin: He wants me to come directly to the question. Having had the chance to ramble on about 10 different subjects I guess I too should have a little latitude too.

Specifically, he wants to know about the herring-gull egg program. He knows that there are two components. One is the Canadian Wildlife Service and the other is the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters.

Since April 1, 1985, the Canadian Wildlife Service has been gathering the eggs and monitoring the colonies, preparing the eggs for chemical analysis and interpreting the biological significance of chemical data from the analysis of the eggs. From the same date, the Inland Waters Directorate has been in charge of the chemical analysis of dioxin in the eggs, carrying out the analysis of new contaminants in the eggs, ensuring the reliability of the data through quality control and administering contracts for standard analysis of toxic chemicals in the eggs.

● (1810)

Those are the parts of the program and precisely the things that are being done on behalf of the Department of the Environment. I think that this very precisely indicates the continued efforts on the part of the Department of the Environment toward ensuring, in so far as possible, as a part of a much broader and necessary approach, that we deal with those contaminants that are in the Great Lakes waters in particular.

INDUSTRY—EMPLOYEES OF DOMINION STORES IN ONTARIO

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, on May 16 I raised a question regarding the closing of 93