

*Supply*

planes. With the storm out there it may be difficult for some of us to get home.

Given the weather and other circumstances, Mr. Speaker, the Official Opposition would like to split the following 20 minutes into two 10 minute periods where the member for Halifax will take the floor for us and the member for Nunatsiak would also speak. After that we will fold our tent.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I too am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the debate this afternoon. I guess it was the encouragement of the government members earlier that we were anxious to get into the debate and encouraged us to suggest that perhaps we could extend the debate somewhat into the afternoon to allow those members who have remarks on this important issue to have ample time to complete those remarks.

We will support, certainly with enthusiasm, the suggestion of our hon. colleague. I think, however, that we would just as soon prefer to continue with the 20 and 10 format. We have a number of people who wish yet to speak and we have lots to say but, again, we have no hesitation to support the Official Opposition's request for tens and fives.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, we are certainly quite willing to support the Official Opposition in its position to split its time.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, before I commence my remarks on this extremely important motion, I would just like to pay a compliment to our newest colleague in the House on his maiden speech, the hon. member for Chambly, although I warn him his last remarks were so long that I almost changed my mind about the compliment. However, I do offer it in good faith and good spirit.

This is a crucially important motion. It is a crucially important matter. This is possibly the most important matter facing Parliament and the people of Canada today as we enter into the last decade of the 20th century.

As most people know, I represent the city of Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia. The Province of Nova Scotia is known and acknowledged far and wide across this country as one of the most beautiful places, not just

in this beautiful country of Canada, but one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Our licence plates proclaim us as "Canada's Ocean Playground". We are almost an island. We are connected to the rest of Canada by the isthmus of Chignecto, a scant 12 miles wide, and we are surrounded almost completely by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Bay of Fundy and the Northumberland Strait. We have within our province the beautiful Bradore Lakes, a number of rivers that once, and I say sadly, were teaming with Atlantic salmon, and the wonderful chains of lakes that make up part and parcel of the Kedgemakooge National Park in the southern part of our province.

When Europeans first came to the shores of Nova Scotia in the year 1603, they knew what a beautiful and magnificent country they had settled in. When the first Europeans, the French, came to Nova Scotia, followed soon after by Scots, Irish, English, Germans and many other nations, they settled in this province and they farmed, fished and did some logging.

In the northern part of the province they began the coal mines that go three, four, five and six miles out under the sea, and the steelworks. Even in those early days when they began the steelworks and the coal mines, they were concerned about the environmental reaction, about the way the land, the sky and the water would react to the industrial development in that most beautiful of provinces, Nova Scotia.

To a degree, we do not have so much to worry about from our own home-grown industry any more because the coal industry is almost dead and the steel industry in danger of dying. The beauties of Nova Scotia are imperilled on a daily basis and the change over the last few years has been frightening to those of us who live within this province.

My family has a house 30 miles outside the city of Halifax on the shores of St. Margaret's Bay, very close to one of the most famous landmarks in Nova Scotia, and I refer to Peggy's Cove. Those of you who have not been there, I invite you to come. But I invite you to come fairly quickly while its beauty is still evident to all.

I tell you that on the shores of St. Margaret's Bay, for years people from Halifax and the surrounding area and tourists who come to our province, have used the beaches, gone swimming, sailing, fishing and all the various recreational activities that can be done in Cana-