

Government Orders

I am going to conclude there and come back later in the debate to speak about the role of the environmental community which was involved in this bill, and I applaud that, and some of the shortcomings of the bill which still treats environment and economic development as trade-offs. I want to talk about where I think we can strengthen the bill by making a much clearer process, a stronger process and better public input.

Let me conclude where I began. As the hon. member from The Battlefords—Meadow Lake has said, I have visited his riding and it is a beautiful environment.

I want to conclude by saying that the environment is the major issue for the future. The young people of Canada understand that. They demand that their members of Parliament, as far as possible, put partisanship aside, as has been done a lot in this committee, to strengthen this bill, to make a strong environmental bill with clear protections and a clear process when we are to begin big projects in this country which could damage our environment. We have just begun the fight.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add a few words here. I am prompted by my friend from British Columbia who has visited my constituency and travelled in particular to Meeting Lake Regional Park at one point. He rode in an antique vehicle that had been provided to us for the afternoon on a beautiful summer day on the banks of the beautiful lake at Meeting Lake Regional Park in north-west Saskatchewan.

The hon. member speaks volumes when he talks about the importance of the environment to us as human beings. We all would be much poorer without the ability to have those clean lakes and the clean air around us.

I visited India last year for the world conference with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I must say touring a country with a population of 850 million people and trying to find a clean lake like we have in northern Saskatchewan is a task that I do not think anyone could perform.

We have a lot of work to do in this world and starting here at home is a must.

The hon. member talked about regulations and he talked about working on Bill C-17, the gun control legislation. I had to tell him, as we had discussed privately during that bill, my major concern with the gun control legislation was the lack of the ability of members of Parliament and others to have access to and discuss the regulatory process.

On the member's work on that committee, it defined a regulation-making process that gave members of Parliament and members of the other place an opportunity to have a look at the regulations prior to their coming into force and being a part of the process that flows out of that legislation.

The member from British Columbia will note that one of the amendments that will come up later today is virtually word for word from Bill C-17.

I put on the table for this environmental legislation an amendment which would provide members of this House and members of the other place an opportunity to review the stacks of regulations that are going to come down in relation to this particular piece of legislation.

I am most concerned that in fact the regulation-making process is going to be the one that is going to have the most follow-up when Bill C-13 is finally law and we are operating with it in developing the environmental assessment process in Canada.

I would like to see, and I will be urging later in the day that my amendment, which was modelled on the one put forward by the hon. member in Bill C-17, regarding the regulatory process will be accepted by the members on the other side and the members to my right in the Liberal Party.

I do not have enough time to speak about this section, Mr. Speaker, and I regret that but I understand the rules and will be happy to follow the rules. This set of amendments, while it deals with a broad range of subjects, inserts a few technical matters into those sections, but in particular, Motion No. 20 dealing with the joint review panel is one that I would like to say a few words about.