

*Oral Questions***PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to members' attention the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Elizabeth Dole, United States Secretary of Labour and the Hon. Robert Dole, United States Senate Minority Leader.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish also to draw to members' attention, the presence in the gallery of His Excellency, Mario Machungo, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, this morning in a public forum the former Secretary General of the Brundtland Commission said:

When I hear we are world leaders on the environment, I cringe with embarrassment.

It is no wonder that tens of thousands of Canadians felt they had to demonstrate in defence of the earth yesterday. The government has acted only seven times to charge polluters under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act since it was passed.

When is the Prime Minister going to take charge of a divided cabinet and set some national direction on the environment?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, any divisions in the Liberal Party I cannot take responsibility for.

I can speak, however, for a strong, united cabinet and government behind a Minister of the Environment whose record was approved by Mrs. Brundtland.

My friend referred to the Secretary General of the Brundtland Commission. She should refer to the Chairman of the Brundtland Commission, the former Prime Minister of Norway, Mrs. Brundtland, who said that Canada's record in the environment was one of which all Canadians should be proud.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. He is obviously not aware that Madam Brundtland very

recently said it was time for Canada to act instead of just talk.

The minister of energy says we have to wait for international action before we move on emissions reduction. The Minister of the Environment says the price of inaction is too high to wait. Now, which of these ministers speaks for the cabinet? Will the Prime Minister tell us which of these ministers is expressing the environmental policy of his government?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to look at any quote that my hon. friend purports to have from Mrs. Brundtland. I may read an official statement by Mrs. Brundtland. When she was Prime Minister and chairman of the UN commission, she noted and I quote: "There is the leadership role that Canada plays in international affairs and, in particular, in the ongoing international work to achieve sustainable development—We did have a hard time on the commission and we were very fortunate to have the complete support and leadership of the Canadian Government".

I would also draw to my hon. friend's attention a statement by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, last December, who said that "Canada, however, was one of the first to place questions of environmental protection on the international agenda and has achieved remarkable successes in this area".

All international leaders recognize that while our record is not perfect, it is one of which all Canadians should be proud, and I think all Canadians are, except certain people in the Liberal party.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**ATLANTIC FISHERIES**

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries.

Last week, the minister made most insulting statements about Atlantic fishing communities to the effect that the workers and fishermen use fishing only to qualify for unemployment insurance.

Is the minister prepared today to take this opportunity to apologize to these communities and to withdraw these most offensive remarks?