

Oral Questions

I would suggest, therefore, that the hon. member show some patience. We will be addressing this issue tomorrow when a specific program will be put in place. I know the hon. member will be pleased by what he sees.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

This is the government that last week offered special briefings on the green plan to select members of the media but offers members of Parliament a lockup tomorrow morning. Tomorrow is going to be a public relations exercise to try to cover up the possible election of Jean Chrétien later today. We know what is going on.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am the one who had a tooth pulled this morning. It looks like the Liberals are a little nervous.

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister because the legacy of this government is business profits first, environment last. Across this country our forests are falling to clear-cuts and they are not being replanted. Our air, water, and land are becoming increasingly polluted. Since the process began \$5 billion of new money was promised, a promise we now know will be broken tomorrow because of the briefings given to the press last week. But some promises must be kept, and I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if they will be kept.

Would he confirm the dates for the implementation of specific targets and timetables for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and acid precipitation. While he is at it, would he confirm the dates for implementation of a natural resources inventory on the state of our environment and on the state of pollution of our environment?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is getting carried away with his presumptions. I would suggest to him that he wait until tomorrow when the document is presented. He will have a chance to have looked at it, and then he can comment on it in a knowledgeable fashion.

Certainly it would be premature and totally disregarding of the institution of Parliament to have the debate on the green plan one day before it is officially unveiled.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, that answer would have some value and some validity if the government had not pre-briefed certain select media last week before letting members of the House know what is in the plan.

My supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister as well.

[*Translation*]

Even if the Plan doesn't have the money that was promised and in fact confirmed—

[*English*]

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fulton: Oh, I am not allowed to speak French now.

[*Translation*]

As I was saying, at a briefing session given last week to a select group of journalists, the minister can still table a bill to protect the environment. Could the minister give the House the assurance that an environmental charter of rights will be included in the Green Plan he will table tomorrow?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think all members will have to wait until tomorrow.

[*English*]

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He knows, because everyone who has studied the issue of national parks in this country knows it, that if we do not complete the national parks system by the year 2000 our opportunity to do so will have been forgone.

Would the Deputy Prime Minister confirm what has been confirmed prior to today and prior to tomorrow, that the national parks system will be completed by the year 2000 and that two new national parks per year will be created between now and the year 2000?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that this government has made a commitment to the preservation of Canada's environment in the form of national parks, a