

*Routine Proceedings*

It has been a privilege to serve the great riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka. I came to this place at an age when a lot of people retire and I have been able to have a career of 21 years. It is the most exciting career I could possibly think of. I know all of us are proud of the fact that we are able to sit in the House of Commons despite the low repute we are held in by the people across the country. The message should be getting across that politics is an honourable profession. There should be more people looking into the possibility of serving their country.

As I look back on my career and my stay in the House and am asked what I have done, if anything, besides vote with the party, stand up and be here as often as I am told, I think back over the last 13 years when I have been deeply involved in the question of acid rain and the environment. I worked hard on these and I feel that I have contributed something.

I know I was involved in it when it was the best kept secret in the United States and not too prominent here. But we kept going down and meeting with the members of the U.S. Congress. I remember one of the prominent members of the House of Representatives saying: "Mr. Darling, do not give us this talk about acid rain. You are coming down here trying to scare us and sell us your hydro power from Ontario and Quebec". This was a tough thing to overcome. It is one thing I can take some pride in.

I will certainly miss this House when the next Parliament sits, but I guess it is time to just relax and take it easy. I will be celebrating my 82nd birthday a month from today, July 16.

• (2050)

Once more, I want to thank all the people in my riding who supported me and tell them how much I have enjoyed representing the great riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Madam Speaker, once again, we are adjourning ahead of schedule, as if the House had finished all its business. What a fallacy. Again, the Conservative government is making it clear that Canadians do not count for much. Again, the government is forcing the House to adjourn before dealing with the major problems. Nothing has

been done to create jobs. There have been no announcements about guaranteeing young people an adequate education. There is nothing on the horizon to improve the well-being of senior citizens. There are no programs to provide affordable housing for the far too many Canadians who need it.

Unfortunately, this is only the beginning of a long list. In other words, the Conservative government just because it worked so hard to elect a new leader thinks it is time to take a rest, and the best way to do this is to leave the problems of Canadians in limbo. Perhaps it actually intends to let the next Liberal government deal with these problems and clean up the mess. We will certainly have a lot of work to do, but we are not afraid of work. We are prepared to work long hours to improve the quality of life of all our fellow citizens.

[*English*]

Ever since the Conservatives came to power they have said that they would be encouraging high technology. I want to address one specific local issue that in my opinion characterized the way the Tories did business while in government.

For years the city of Saint-Laurent has been at the forefront of high technology and aerospace industrial development in Canada. In my riding of Saint-Laurent—Cartierville we have two airports, Dorval and Cartierville. Canadair and other aerospace industries are located just minutes away from downtown Montreal. Despite these characteristics the Conservatives decided to place the space agency in St. Hubert, away from the people that they need to do business with.

It is time for a change. It is time for the government to do business with the needs of the people in mind and set aside partisanship for the benefit of Canada. Canadians are tired of this government because of what it has done to the political process. The Tories have tried to make this institution, Parliament, irrelevant. They have taken the voice of the people away from the decision-making process and have placed it in the hands of lobbyists and bureaucrats. By the time a policy makes its way to the House of Commons, there is very little room for debate.

In the past five years that I have been in Parliament, I can no longer count the number of times that the Conservative government has used its majority to cut off debate on a whole series of issues. Canadians are cynical of this tired approach to government. They want openness. They want accountability and, most importantly,