

the forest industry—the production of lumber and the production of pulp and paper. In fact we are very quickly destroying our forests because of neglect in dealing with acid rain.

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on this opposition motion dealing with the problem of acid rain, particularly transboundary crossing of acid rain and, as was mentioned by the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser), what the House can do about the problem and its effects on Canada's environment and economy. I echo the words of the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) when he talked about this motion being couched in reasonable terms and one which could and probably should be passed unanimously by Hon. Members of the House.

I congratulate the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), who has had a continuing and enduring interest in this and other environmental problems, on the way in which the motion is framed. As was mentioned, it is not a motion which wildly or even mildly condemns the Government. It is not framed in terms of criticism or disgust for a record, but rather it is a motion which looks toward the future.

As the previous speaker mentioned, the timeline is getting short. We talk now of 1994, in terms of geological time and the way in which damage accumulates in the environment because of the absorption of acid rain and the build-up of levels of chemicals in our lakes, rivers, trees and even buildings. Maybe the problem has been going on for over 100 years now, but if action is not taken soon, indeed the damage will be irreversible and will affect the economy and environment of Canada.

Shortly after I became a Member of Parliament in 1984 I received letters from numerous communities in my riding dealing with the acid rain problem. I received letters from people in Dryden, Longbow Lake, Fort Frances, Ignace and Sioux Lookout, all telling of their concern about the problem of acid rain and the long-term environmental deterioration acid rain has the capacity to initiate in the country and across the continent.

The people in my riding are in a way somewhat more fortunate than those who lie to the east of them, because of prevailing winds and the lack of polluting industry in the western United States, at least at any sort of distance which allows for heavy deposition. My riding is not as badly affected as some of those in northern Ontario, in Quebec and in the far northeastern United States. Even so, there are problems. Research is going on in my riding at the moment regarding acidification of lakes. There are pockets where acidification is believed to be quite advanced. There is never a cause for complacency, simply because a problem has not yet fully visited itself upon a particular area. We can always look at the areas where the problem is fully evident and draw our conclusions.

I should like to refer to a letter sent on July 31, 1984 by the then Leader of the Opposition to the executive co-ordinator of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain. In that letter the Prime

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Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said: "It is our intention to proceed with constructive action as a priority following the September 4 federal election. We believe that with an effective plan of action which could be produced within six months, we can at least meet and should be able to surpass the objective of a 50 per cent reduction in Canadian acidic emissions by 1994". I should like to ask Government Members, with this commitment framed in very clear terms and in a way that is absolutely unequivocal, how they could come out and vote against this opposition day motion. How can they say that the matter has changed, that needs are different or that necessarily the Government has a different perspective? Obviously the Prime Minister, in his days as Leader of the Opposition, specifically and very firmly endorsed the very goal which is included in the motion we are discussing today.

As my Party's spokesperson on tourism I should like to talk about the effect acid rain is having on hunting and fishing tourist lodges, particularly as I know them in northern Ontario, but I am quite sure throughout the Province of Quebec and in those parts of the Maritimes where such industries are carried on.

The rate at which lakes are dying in Canada is believed to parallel that of Scandinavia where the sources of pollution are as intense, and I believe even closer. The Northern Ontario Tourists Outfitters Association represents several hundred tourist operators engaged in sports fishing and hunting across northern Ontario. They are very conscious of the problem of acid rain. In fact, that association was a major driving force behind the formation of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain. We are not talking now about a major industrial grouping. We are talking predominantly of small operators, many of them employing only family members and most of them, if not all, being of a seasonal nature. We are not talking about a force which can contend on an equal basis in the economy with the interests that are creating the pollution.

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This organization, which runs largely on voluntary energy, enthusiasm and commitment, contributed \$35,000 to the initial formation of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain. It has added to that contribution because it has a commitment to the industry and a real concern about what acid rain is doing.

There have been experiments with dropping lime into lakes which have suffered very high levels by virtue of acidity. It is good that those experiments are taking place, but rather than neutralizing acidic damage, it is much better to prevent the problem in the first place.

The tourist outfitters of northern Ontario know that the accord which has been reached between our Government and that of the United States will not clean up Ontario lakes and rivers. That is a major point of concern. We are really only talking about a holding action. This action will allow pollution to continue and will allow acidic levels to continue building up in bodies of still and flowing water.

This agreement is only the first line, even if fully implemented, in the struggle to rehabilitate the Canadian environment