

Request for Environmental Council

Mrs. MacInnis: But it will throw your relatives. Perhaps I am being unchivalrous. I take it back in the case of many of you.

An hon. Member: Perhaps you are being inexact.

Mrs. MacInnis: "Inexact" is close. The list continues:

2. Don't use paper towels; use cloth ones which you can wash and use again; when writing use both sides of the paper rather than extra sheets. Refuse unnecessary paper bags in supermarkets: use shopping bags you can re-use. Return junk mail to the sender and mark it as such.

I will add my postscript here, Mr. Speaker: Tell the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) to pass a law that will not allow junk mail such a favourable rate of postage.

An hon. Member: Especially that which goes to him.

Mrs. MacInnis: The list continues:

Wasting paper means wasting trees and building pulp mills.

3. Walk and use public transport as much as possible: it's safer and reduces pollution.

They forgot to add that it reduces the corporation, too, which a lot of people in this chamber have. It also reduces the danger of heart attack and early demise. I continue:

4. Vote for candidates whose record shows concern for the environment.

An hon. Member: Now you have got them.

Mrs. MacInnis: Not "whose rhetoric" but "whose record shows concern for the environment." It continues:

If you don't know where they stand on environmental issues: find out.

And don't find out by listening to them; find out by looking in *Hansard*. I did not read that from the list, Mr. Speaker; I contributed it myself.

5. Use electricity wisely. Don't buy or use electric gadgets such as electric can openers: they are a waste of materials and energy.

6. Use no pesticides unless absolutely necessary and then only those containing the least harmful chemicals such as pyrethrin, methoxychlor and the carbamates. Never use chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides such as DDT, DDD, endrin, dieldrin and toxaphene.

7. Insist on glass instead of plastic containers: glass can be recycled, plastic cannot. Support recycling depots by taking your re-usable materials to them.

8. Join at least one conservation group and participate actively in its programs.

9. Write letters on environmental issues to newspapers and government representatives. Public opinion does work.

Don't throw this magazine away: when you're finished with it, please give it to another interested person.

This afternoon the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra mentioned that we had put a section in the Canada Water Act to greatly reduce the amount of phosphates in detergents and eventually to eliminate them. He knows that the government would not have included that section in a month of Sundays without the flood of letters, telegrams and briefs from people all across the country. These people were armed with knowledge gained from Pollution Probe, STOP, SPOT and other organizations. This strengthened the hand of the minister and the government

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

and enabled them to say phooey to the big soap lobbies that were prowling around.

Mr. Deachman: You are doing it, Grace.

Mrs. MacInnis: I am telling you how it was done; it was through volunteer citizen groups. It is they who police the environment, given the knowledge, the initiative and leadership. I suggest that it is the job of the Minister of the Environment to lead campaigns to give this knowledge and leadership to voluntary citizen groups which represent the entire community instead of just individual, interested sections. It is only people representing the whole community who can save and protect our environment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex): Mr. Speaker, coming from an area so close to the Great Lakes and the problem of international pollution I thought I should take part in this debate. When I read the motion I thought it sounded reasonable. I thought the debate would be more constructive than it has been so far; perhaps it has and I missed it. However, after listening to members of the opposition, especially members of the New Democratic Party, I feel that the motion was probably moved for nothing more than political reasons.

• (2040)

If one were to read the record one would find that many statements made about pollution are exaggerated, unfounded or even fabricated. For instance, Mr. Speaker, hon. members have talked about a ship going aground off Vancouver Island. We are all concerned about pollution. We are interested in this matter. We have listened to different stories about this ship. Radio and television commentators and newspaper reporters have described how the ship sank and discussed the possibility of oil pollution. I think those stories were exaggerated, especially after listening to the hon. member who visited the area. I am referring to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett), a member of the NDP whom I got to know very well on the fisheries committee. He said that he did not see any oil in the area except around the ship itself. He did not talk about the environmental damage, etc., that was supposed to have been caused. He took a constructive attitude and told us what he saw. That is not the impression one would gain from reading the newspapers.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): What the hon. member said was right at that time, but that is not the situation today.

Mr. Benjamin: The ship is now leaking, as the hon. member is.

Mr. Whelan: We have heard what has been done in the Great Lakes. How many really know what has happened in the Great Lakes? I wish to quote from an article which appeared in the *Windsor Star*. It was written by a noteworthy reporter and is entitled, "Extension for lakes clean-up bid". The sum of money mentioned may not seem much to some but it is a great deal in my area. They are spending \$500 million on this package.

Mr. Benjamin: That is cheap.