

crisis" and cited the need for greater intergovernmental co-operation to repair and maintain the roads, sewers and bridges in towns and cities across Canada. However, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has chosen to ignore the Federation's recommendations.

This is a national problem, from coast to coast. For instance, in the community of East Royalty, P.E.I., the sewer system is in a disgraceful condition and threatens to become a serious health hazard. A proposal was made by the community council to repair the sewers by using the UI Job Creation Program. At least 40 jobs would have been created. However, the Department of Employment and Immigration rejected this proposal.

Despite his supposedly tough stand on waste disposal, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) seems unconcerned by the dangerous situation in this community, which, indeed, is in his own riding. The people of East Royalty have been betrayed three times by the Conservative Government.

• (1410)

I urge the Ministers to reconsider their shameful disregard for public health and safety and to help these municipalities immediately.

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[Translation]

MINES AND MINING

GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 1987, the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines (Mr. Merrithew) released a comprehensive policy designed by the Government of Canada to coordinate all federal measures dealing with metals and minerals.

The aim of this new policy, which provides for a flexible form of Government intervention to support the minerals and metals sector, is to promote the development of this industry as a basis for regional economic development and to assist workers and communities that have been affected by industrial restructuring.

While pursuing these objectives, the Government of Canada recognizes and respects the primacy of the provinces in managing their natural resources. Recognition of the need to work in co-operation with the provincial Governments is a fundamental principle of federal activity in the minerals and metals sector.

Mr. Speaker, that is what this Conservative Government is doing for Canada, for Quebec and for Abitibi and Témiscamingue.

[English]

S. O. 21

HOUSE OF COMMONS

STANDING ORDERS—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the institution of Parliament are to serve all Members of Parliament. The rules and regulations of Parliament are designed to serve all Members of all Parties and are not designed to serve only the Government and Progressive Conservative Party members. This is why opposition Members of the House of Commons are outraged today at the fact that the Government has decided to change the rules of Parliament unilaterally to suit its plans.

Parliament must not be made subservient to the Progressive Conservative Government. Parliament must continue to be responsible to the people of Canada. That is the parliamentary tradition we have grown to treasure, and we must defend it today by stopping the Government's unilateral and quite frankly dictatorial approach which is to ram changes to the rules of Parliament through Parliament by using its 210-Member majority.

The Government cannot blame its failures and its inadequacies on the rules of Parliament. The Government has clearly proven to the people of Canada that it cannot govern adequately and that it cannot conduct the business of government within the traditional parliamentary calendar. It therefore seeks to blame parliamentary rules for its abysmal failure.

The Government, with the largest parliamentary majority in Canadian history, cannot conduct the business of the House of Commons by following the time-proven practices of Parliament and therefore has been forced to stoop to the bully-boy tactic of forcing its will through Parliament. This is certainly a very dark day for the parliamentary traditions of Canada.

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK

NEED FOR ACTION BY ALL CANADIANS—TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of Environment Week and it must not be spent merely dusting off our nature books and counting four-leaf clovers. Environment Week should signify the need for action by all Canadians. Preserving our fragile environment must become our national sport.

As Chairman of the federal Special Committee on Acid Rain, I am attending the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Union Conference in Vancouver this weekend. It will afford a valuable opportunity to buttonhole American Congressmen to express Canada's dissatisfaction with transboundary pollution in North America.