

very important ministry in the government is that of the Prime Minister and it seems to me, and I would like to ask the member if he could refresh the House's memory on something the Prime Minister had said in relation to the Brundtland report. My faint recollection is that he had commended it very highly and had pointed out to the House that Madam Brundtland herself had commended him for his support of it. Could you expand on that?

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, I think it is an important point. It was raised by the member for Davenport with the minister a little bit earlier, but in relation to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, on behalf of Canada, did endorse the recommendations of the Brundtland report, the World Commission on Environment and Development, at the United Nations and received a resounding round of applause that rang around the world for doing so.

An hon. member: And received an award for it.

Mr. Fulton: That is right. He received an award and has spoken of the glowing terms in which he has been described by former Prime Minister Brundtland to the international community as a real leader on the issue of land and species preservation. I must say I find it quite shocking. The Brundtland report itself describes the requirement for the designation of 12 per cent of the land in marine zones of planet Earth as the absolute fundamental foundation of sustainable development and we have a government that is constantly espousing sustainable development.

If the actual locus building block is the setting aside of 12 per cent and the Prime Minister has endorsed it before the only formal international body that we know, which is the United Nations, and been given accolades from around the world for endorsing those recommendations, we cannot suddenly find the government ejecting the core recommendation of the royal commission and saying, "Well, we like everything else but the core recommendation", I think it would be hypocrisy of the very highest order.

I would hope that members on the government side think very carefully about the importance of the signal that is given to Canadians and the corporate community in this country and to the world, that we are dead serious about completing our national park system and not just the five north of 60 between now and the year 2000 but

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that we are going to complete in all the 18 bioregions and that might mean far more than 18 national parks.

Mrs. Browes: Madam Speaker, just to remind the member, without throwing too many accolades to the city of Toronto council, I would just like to remind the member that the metropolitan Toronto council recently voted to put garbage in the most sensitive area in metro Toronto and probably in Ontario, that is the Rouge Valley. There are other levels of government that have a lot of work to do on this.

First, I would like to compliment him on his interest in this and also the minister who responded in such enthusiastic terms of his commitment to the park system. Just a few years ago there was a task force report called Our Parks, Vision for the 21st Century, headed by Doctor Theberge. In those recommendations he talked about some new concepts of preserving significant pieces of property, the geography of Canada in terms of partnership.

I would like to ask the member to comment on this new concept, whether it is urban ecological reserves or whether it is Canadian heritage parks, but a new partnership, that we may have between levels of government dealing with preserving special pieces of property.

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question because it is a very important one. There are individuals, groups, municipalities, and people all over this country and all over the world who are looking for the most proactive and most effective way of setting aside areas that are of enormous importance, either to them locally or to the world. I think there are all kinds of opportunities for partnerships. But let me start with what I would describe as the top end of the question or of the issue, the setting aside the 12 per cent of land and marine areas. The federal governments of every state around the world must take on the leadership in that role. They may not be the one who set aside the majority of that 12 per cent, but they must be the leaders because they have the majority of jurisdiction and tools in most areas around the world.

In terms of completing the national parks system, I am not one who believes in the philosophy that was espoused by Madam Blais-Grenier while she was here, which is that private Canadian citizens should be responsible for going out and fund-raising and for buying the land to create our national park system. I think that was a terribly unfortunate proposal. In terms of small ecolog-