

*Government Orders*

ages Quebec and all other Canadian provinces to initiate the necessary discussions to conclude the administrative agreements necessary for efficient management when projects involve shared responsibilities.

That is where the press release ended. In summary, the intent of the bill is not to overstep provincial jurisdiction but simply to foster and facilitate a new era of provincial and federal co-operation. Responsibility for the environment does not end at the boundary of a province.

The environment does not know provincial boundaries. In fact, the environment does not know international boundaries. Just recently the Government of the United States of America joined together with the Government of Canada in agreeing on a historic acid rain agreement.

This is but one example of governments taking leadership in developing partnerships to resolve environmental issues. This is a very important example demonstrating the way to resolve problems that are of a global nature. Many of our environmental problems are not isolated or limited to provincial, municipal, or for that matter national jurisdictions.

They are of a global nature and require global solutions to solve them. The first step in achieving these solutions is forming partnerships. As for the concerns expressed by some of the members, it is important for them to consider that partnerships would have to be forged between provinces and between a province and the federal government.

The old style and the old approach of confrontation is them against us and me against you. That has proven not to work. That is the old way and not what Canadians and citizens of the world are looking for. The citizens of the world are looking more and more at partnerships, shared responsibilities and co-operation.

I believe this is an important bill. It is a bill that clarifies some of the concerns that have been expressed in the past with regard to environmental assessment. The bill does not intrude on provincial jurisdiction. It simply applies only to those areas in which the federal government has a defined role.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer):** Madam Speaker, we all know that the environment is a major issue. Nobody questions the fact that we must do everything in our power to protect it. But with Bill C-13, and it is one of the main reasons the Bloc Québécois is here in this House, it is a matter of protecting Quebec's best interests.

In this case, Quebec's National Assembly has unanimously passed a motion this afternoon which says: "That, as required by an unanimous motion of the commission for development and facilities, the National Assembly strongly disagrees with the federal government's Bill C-13, an act to establish a federal environmental assessment process, since it is contrary to Quebec's best interests, and objects to its passing in the federal Parliament".

Earlier our colleague from Alberta north east mentioned that last November the Alberta minister of the environment made similar remarks to the effect that since the provinces are powerful enough, have their own ministers of the environment and the capacities and the means to manage their own department and their own affairs, we should avoid this duplication, this overlap. Right now in Quebec, the minister, Mr. Paradis, is speaking out against Ottawa's totalitarianism. If Bill C-13 is passed in the House, it will allow the federal government, for instance, to conduct its own environmental assessments in several areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. That is an obvious encroachment on provincial jurisdictions, and in Quebec a motion was unanimously passed against such a thing. It is not of question of partisanship. Our role here is to tell the House that this is not a constitutional issue, like those being discussed by the federal government and the provinces. It is about one jurisdiction, the environment.

We have to recognize that no boundary circumscribes the environment. As everyone knows, you cannot build a wall to prevent bees from flying over to your neighbour's backyard. But when you talk about encroachment, Mr. Speaker, you have to remember what happened last year. Mr. Paradis has spoken against this federal bill before. Besides, his colleague, the minister for energy, Lise Bacon, once accused Ottawa of hiding behind the environment banner.