

an election campaign, by the Minister of the Environment at a minimum.

Moreover, Canadians are entitled to know whether the Prime Minister's sudden interest in the environment is driven by the polls or by a genuine desire to change alarming trends in air, water and soil, at home and abroad, which require much more than just a declaration accompanied by generalities.

I thank you for your indulgence and I would stress that Canadians are entitled to know.

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member who has just spoken asked about this Government's commitment to environmental issues. I am very happy to have this opportunity to briefly outline just a few of those initiatives. I think the record speaks for itself and the list of issues speaks for itself. With your indulgence I will try to describe some of those initiatives, although I suspect time will not permit me to do justice to the entire list.

For example, comprehensive new environmental legislation, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, was promulgated on June 30 of this year. Regulations were introduced to reduce motor vehicle emissions. Lead additives are being removed from gasoline by regulation, and I am pleased that the deadline for that has been advanced. Chlorofluorocarbons will be reduced by regulation. We are putting in place national requirements for the storage of PCBs, which has of course been very much an issue these last few weeks.

We have expanded our pesticides management program. We have introduced new water legislation prohibiting large-scale water exports. We have upgraded the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and signed a Niagara River pollution accord with the Americans. We are cleaning up Windermere Harbour in Hamilton and the Sydney tar ponds. We are working with the City of Halifax to build an oil-from-sludge sewage treatment facility. I think that is a very exciting development in itself.

We have signed agreements with seven provincial governments to control acid rain. It was this Government that introduced the first amendments to the National Parks Act in over 50 years. We established four new national parks, Ellesmere, Pacific Rim, South Moresby and the Bruce Peninsula. We hosted the International Conference on Ozone Depletion in the Upper Atmosphere and were instrumental in securing the world's first ever global treaty on the atmosphere.

We negotiated the Canada-U.S. Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan. We increased the number of sites designated for wetland protection to 30, a number greater than that of any other country. We signed with the United States the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a 15 year program to reverse declining waterfowl populations. That is of course extremely important in the drought areas of western Canada.

### *Adjournment Debate*

We issued a comprehensive report on the state of the Canadian environment. We will supplement that initiative with fact sheets on particular ecosystems and issues. We have established a working group with industry and the provinces to implement the principles of sustainable development.

The list goes on, as you know. However, incomplete as that list may be, it certainly speaks of commitment. It certainly speaks of a record in which the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), indeed all members of Cabinet, all members of this Government, and I would go further and say all Members of Parliament, can take some pride in and accept some credit.

#### HOUSING—METROPOLITAN TORONTO—VACANT LAND AT DOWNSVIEW AIR BASE

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, I will bet you have been at some red hot public meetings in your time as a Member of Parliament. When I say that, I mean meetings where your constituents were concerned, disturbed, upset, worked up, and perhaps even rip-roaring mad. I can see from the look on your face that you have been at a few of those meetings, and I imagine more than one. I have, too, and I suspect that all Members in this House have been at those kinds of meetings from time to time.

● (1810)

I had that sort of an experience earlier this year when I met with some tenants in my constituency. These are tenants who live in the five apartment buildings that are located at the southeast corner of Don Mills Road and Lawrence Avenue East in my riding. They are the residents of 16 The Don Way East, 18 The Don Way East, 1065 Don Mills Road, 1071 Don Mills Road and 1001 Lawrence Avenue East. They formed an association of tenants called the Five Rs Tenants' Association. The President of that Association is a dynamic guy called Peter Bate, and you know that sort of dynamic guy, Mr. Speaker. You have had them on your tail before with a blowtorch, and so have I.

That meeting was held on a Saturday afternoon at Don Mills Collegiate and there were an awful lot of people there. They were worked up, upset, and really mad about the fact that their rents were going up and the maintenance on their buildings was going down. They were afraid that their rental buildings might be converted into condominium apartments and were concerned about the fact that they did not have anywhere else to go. There was no alternative.

The reason there was no alternative and still is no alternative for those tenants and others in Metropolitan Toronto is the fact that the vacancy rate on rental apartments is so low. In addition to that, no rental apartments have been built in Metropolitan Toronto for years. When the rents go up and they have to move there is just no alternative accommodation, particularly for people on modest incomes and for senior citizens.