

the issue as it has because the spill occurred off the west coast of Canada.

[*Translation*]

I am still waiting for the answer from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard, (Lac Saint-Jean)). We have heard from the mini-Bouchard, the mini-mouth, and we are now waiting to hear from the big-mouth. As a novice perhaps is he afraid to speak. But then I too am a novice in environmental matters, and yet I am not afraid of saying that, if the same environmental problem happened in Montreal, in the Saint Lawrence River, or in Toronto, in Lake Ontario, a national crisis would have long been declared. But in this case, we cannot even find the Minister of the Environment to have him come in this House to speak precisely about the environment.

We have heard from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) who is directly concerned by this matter. We have heard from the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard, (Roberval)) who is also concerned as the spokesman for the Exxon corporation which he mentioned several times. But we have not heard a single word from the Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, we have just listened to the Minister of Transport telling us what is available in Canada to clean up this kind of mess.

[*English*]

Let us look at the Canadian record. The Minister of Transport has just spent several months extolling the equipment the Canadian Government has made available by way of the Coast Guard to assist in the Exxon clean-up. We have not heard a thing about the kind of international discussions or compensation that should be taking place. We have not heard a thing about a moratorium or about winter shipping that should have been discussed when the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States met very recently and environment was supposed to be the number one issue on the agenda.

In the Liberal Party we suggested that the Prime Minister might take some lessons from the example of the Vancouver Island oil spill. He might start to undertake some international negotiations to set limits on the kind of activity that takes place not only off the west coast but off our other coast. He might put specific provisions in place to compensate those individual fishermen and other individuals who derive their livelihood from the fishing industry and whose livelihood is now being destroyed by the incompetence, negligence and

criminal activity that we have seen take place regarding this particular spill.

Let us look back at the Canadian Government's record in the spill that occurred recently on Vancouver Island. We spoke just today with Maureen Fraser, no relation I presume to be the Hon. Speaker, is she?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I feel compelled to indicate to the Hon. Member that she may not be an immediate relation, but she is most definitely from the same clan of which we are very proud.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Copps:** I do not want to put the Chair in the awkward position of having to declare a conflict of interest, so I shall just say a spokesman for The Friends of Clayoquot Sound which was very directly affected in the recent oil spill off Vancouver Island. We saw the great network of environmental concern as expressed by the Canadian Government in that particular spill. That left the effort to volunteers to clean up the beaches. What is the situation months after the situation that occurred off Vancouver Island which has a very direct threat to the residents of British Columbia? Most areas within reach of volunteers have been cleaned.

We will not find signs of oil in the areas that have been touched by volunteers, but there is still oil lying under the surface which is coming up in small globs. The volunteers are cleaning that up now. There five-foot coves along the rugged coast which have not been looked at or cleaned up. Scientists cannot predict how long oil will continue to wash up. Scientists cannot predict the extent of damage to birds or to sea life. The grey whales have been moving up the coast to Alaska, and now we know what the grey whales will be facing in Alaska. The research into the affects of the Vancouver Island spill will be compounded by the oil spill off Alaska and its affect on the whale population.

But what do we hear from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard)? He is continuing to study the affects of the spill.

Let us talk about the actual equipment which the federal Government has available at its disposition. According to the Deputy Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard, there is no ability by the Canadian Coast Guard to recover oil in heavy seas or strong currents such as those that already exist in the Juan de Fuca Strait which is already being used as a traverse area for the tankers coming through from Alaska because we do not