

at depth—not the 30-second slot on *The Journal*, but the depth education on these issues. There is nobody in Canada, other than the media, that has been asked to do that. The Royal Society has not been asked to produce a one-hour videotape on its perception of global climate warming. Without substantial funding, the Royal Society in Canada is quite unable to do that. That is one thing.

.1205

The other thing is at the local level. I spend a lot of my time talking in high schools and writing articles for *The Vancouver Sun*, and in three weeks' time I will take part in a major press conference in Boston on the effect of acid aerosols in the northeast continent. These are efforts to get these perceptions across to the public.

I think the sort of thing David Suzuki does with great success, looking at the wider issues, is another example.

All of these things are very important. I just regret that in Canada, organizations like the Royal Society, which can offer tremendous expertise, have never been able to have an impact similar to the National Academy and its series *Planet Earth*.

**Mr. Runnalls:** Can I just add to this a sense of proportion. For those in the scientific community, the climate change argument has been around a very long time. For those in the public policy community and in the press and the public at large, I suspect the first time anyone had any sense of it was at the changing atmosphere conference in Toronto. The main reason why that happened was that it just happened to be a very dry summer and very hot and the Governor of Illinois decided he wanted to divert the Great Lakes down the Mississippi River. That got on the front pages of the papers.

The fact is this is an issue that has been around in public policy for barely two years. As you can hear from the discussions here, it is an immensely complicated issue that goes right to the root of the way in which both economic systems and energy systems function, and I do not find it at all surprising that everybody is at a very early stage of understanding it. I do not think that is an excuse for inaction, but I do not think we should throw our hands up in despair and say, the Canadian public does not understand this; somebody better inform them.

I think this is one of a whole series of similar fora that are going on around the world and around Canada that will give the media a chance to expand its coverage of these issues. I am sure you have to fight with your editor for space, the way everyone else does. But I hope it will begin to force more members of the Canadian scientific community to come out of the closet and speak on public issues, because in my experience the Canadian scientific community, with the notable exception of people like Professor Bates, are much less willing to engage in the kind of public debate that the scientific community in Britain and the United States is, and they are a critical ingredient in the formation of public attitudes on this issue.