

Supply

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tremblay): Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Mission—Coquitlam.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Hon. Member for Beaches—Woodbine (Mr. Young) made the very important observation that indeed we borrow the environment from future families, from our children, and from our grandchildren.

I wish to speak to the motion before us today from the point of view of protection of the environment as it begins in the House of Commons. I want to speak about what happens in the House, and what happens in numerous houses in my riding of Mission—Coquitlam.

When I inquired at the House of Commons Printing about having my *Householder* and stationery printed on recycled paper, I was told there were no Canadian suppliers for recycled paper. In fact, we would have to import recycled paper to use it in the amounts that we need in the House of Commons.

If the House were to put the pulp and paper industry on notice that, on a certain date in the future, the House and the Government would only use recycled paper, the sheer volume of government paper use would have the entire pulp and paper industry clamouring to get the first mill up and running to produce recycled paper in order to get that lucrative government contract.

There are a number of matters that can be raised about the health and safety and environmentally sound practices in the House of Commons. Are the plastic bags degradable that are used in recycling bins in our corridors, in our kitchens, and for garbage pickup in the precincts of the House? Do the kitchens separate paper, bottles, cans, and are they recycled? What about the paint, stains, and glue containers used by the many people who keep the House together. Are they disposed of properly by the House? Then there are the styrofoam cups. They are in every cafeteria. In the Opposition lobby and in the Government lobby surely it is possible for us to be using a more safe and environmentally sound container from which to drink water, juice, or coffee?

In the corridors there are recycle bins for papers. Tricil, the company which picks up all the House of Commons garbage, does not recycle garbage or anything else. We have attempted to check and double-check to

see where the recycle bins in the corridors are sent. We have been unable to find that out. I would very much appreciate if, in future, we could be told where the contents of the recycled paper bins in the House of Commons are sent.

Has the Government examined more energy-efficient and environmentally-sound ways to run the buses? Have we thought about natural gas for the green buses that run us around the Hill?

I wonder if it would make some sense for Ministers' cars to be shut off while waiting for Ministers who are in the House, especially during the winter months. I know it might be inconvenient for them to have to put on their coats, but it would certainly be more environmentally sound to put on a coat rather than getting into a warmed up car.

One of the most serious points that clearly illustrates why we need an environmental officer in the House of Commons is the numerous areas within the parliamentary precincts where asbestos materials have been found. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Kootenay West—Revelstoke (Mr. Kristiansen) raised this question earlier today. It was brought to the attention of the Department of Public Works months ago. The response has been that the asbestos will be removed in good time. Walls in this temple of democracy are filled with asbestos insulation. The endless renovations that are going on in this building are being handled unsafely daily. Workers are not protected. The Department of Public Works is not responding in a way that is occupationally healthy or safe.

I now wish to speak about recycling at home in our ridings. My riding of Mission—Coquitlam has the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society. It has won numerous awards for the efforts it has made as a small society toward recycling. Yet, it is a victim of fickle markets, of the lack of interest at higher levels of Government, and a victim of doing a lot of work to recycle paper, glass, cans, and plastic goods and then not be able to have a market. It has to depend on grants from the federal Government, and when possible, the provincial Government just to hang together. That is not good enough. In my view, it does not show Government leadership. It is putting a band-aid on an idea instead of promoting it.