

• (1445)

We have met our commitments. We are the first industrialized country to ratify the climate change convention and the biodiversity convention. We are already implementing both of those and we are developing national plans. We have been the lead in the development of the United Nations Conference on High Seas Fisheries, a very critical component.

One of the most important things which is often forgotten is that the Minister of the Environment, concerned about the dynamics of the UNCED follow-up, convened a meeting in April bringing together 12 of the environment ministers from around the world representing most of the industrialized countries. From that he has created a real political push to ensure that the meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in June will indeed be a success.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

Lots of meetings, lots of press conferences, lots of words and not much action. When the environmental ambassador does what he is supposed to do, he paints a rosy picture of Canada's inaction.

The major piece of environmental legislation of this Parliament, the Environmental Assessment Act, was passed a full year ago and has still not been proclaimed. Now we know that other cabinet ministers are hacking away at the regulations that will put teeth into protecting the environment.

Will the minister please get back to his real job, fight off the ambush from his cabinet colleagues and make sure the Environmental Assessment Act gets proclaimed and not gutted?

**Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women):** Madam Speaker, again I am sure my hon. colleague will remember that the bill came back from the Senate with a number of recommendations. It asked that they be implemented before the act was proclaimed.

One is the development of all the regulatory requirements. Doing things in the real way, the open and transparent way, we went through a major consultative process.

### *Oral Questions*

We have just received the report from that stakeholders group and we will be using that. We will be working with colleagues toward the ultimate proclamation of the act and the implementation of the regulations.

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the same minister.

A year ago at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development the Minister of the Environment and the government declared climate change a top priority.

Yesterday environmental groups released a report card giving the government and the minister a D as in dismal on the follow-up to climate change.

Can the minister tell us when Canada will release its detailed national action plan to stop global climate change and explain the delay?

**Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women):** Madam Speaker, again perhaps those who prepared the report overlooked some of the tremendous number of activities that we have taken in the past year with respect to the climate change convention.

Not only were we the first country to ratify it but we will also have this month the publication of our first national report on climate change which has come about as a result of multisectoral discussion.

In fact I attended the recent meeting of environment ministers. We are now working with the energy ministers for a plan this fall to ensure that we are working together to achieve our objectives federally and provincially.

Just think of some of the other things we have done: the tree planting program, the energy efficiency program—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I think we are getting into a speech. The hon. minister may have the possibility to continue on a supplementary.

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Madam Speaker, I can see that the level of rhetoric is pretty high on the government side but it is not backed up by action.

At the same conference in Rio the government also signed a biodiversity convention. However the government and the minister have failed to say one word on