

*Supply*

I agree with the hon. member on this. The problems of pollution are not within any particular level of government's exclusive jurisdiction. It is all our responsibility.

One member of the Liberal party even commended the government for spending money in Halifax and some other of these areas. I guess that is the point.

The federal government is involved. We transfer billions of dollars to the provincial governments. We have many joint projects, everything from the environment to agriculture. I mentioned the Minister of State for Housing, who is to my right, who committed \$1.8 billion a year to housing, these are substantial sums of money.

One of the things that the members of the New Democratic Party never seem to realize is that all of them are great ideas—all of them. It is always just a question of how much money and how quickly we can put money into these worth-while projects.

As I say, I am quite sure that for members of the NDP \$1.8 billion is not enough for housing. I am sure \$3.6 billion, \$7.4 and \$14 billion is not half enough for the members of the NDP. But the responsibility of the Minister of Finance is to balance the very legitimate concerns of all Canadians and all areas, and at the same time try to ensure that the Government of Canada does not end up bankrupt trying to do it.

**Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, the member has discussed the role of federal involvement in what may be interpreted as being both municipal and provincial matters. He has reflected upon the fact that in many cases, as it may be perceived, the federal government may in fact be overstepping its jurisdiction. That might actually be the case, if it were a matter that the federal government came in against the wishes of the provinces or the municipalities. The member knows full well that both municipalities and provinces throughout Canada had been requesting strong federal initiatives in terms of the assistance required in developing municipal infrastructure, particularly in the areas of waste management and water management. I want to point out to the member that his own government has, in fact, recognized the need for this type of initiative.

I remind him of the federal government's water policy which was tabled in 1987. It states that "the federal government intends to work with the provinces and

territories to encourage the provision of safe and sufficient water supplies for Canadians". That is a quote right out of the federal water policy. It goes on to state that the over-all goal of the federal water policy is to "encourage the use of freshwater in an efficient and equitable manner, consistent with social, cultural and environmental needs". It then identifies two major objectives to achieve that goal: To protect and enhance the quality of the water resource, both in supply and disposal; and, to promote the wise and efficient use of water.

This is a stated initiative in the federal water policy of the government to get involved at the regional and provincial levels with assistance for such programs as water supply and waste management.

It is beyond me to sit and listen to the arguments presented by the member on the government side that this is not a federal responsibility when in fact this very same government has made those initiatives and committed itself, I might add, to do such.

I will extend the argument one more step. Although that has been stated in the federal water policy document, I might provide further evidence for the benefit of the member that that document continues to be a vacuous philosophical tool. It can be used by this government but has no legislation to back it up.

We on this side of the House say that it is time the government put its money where its mouth is. It has made that commitment to the provinces and to the regions within those provinces to get involved in the problems of water management, water supply and waste disposal. It is right there in the document. The member must recognize that.

The government has to recognize that, if it wants to maintain the quality of life that Canadians are used to throughout the country, it has to take the bull by the horns. It has to get involved in these kinds of initiatives that will maintain the environmental quality, not only of our oceans, but of our lakes and inland waters which are also being affected by waste and untreated sewage.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** On a short comment, the hon. member for Niagara Falls.

**Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Madam Speaker, the member was quoting from some document. He must have forgotten about the part where the