

That being said, we care for these kind of considerations. We are concerned about them. We know that in some cases financial decisions have economic results. They might also have environmental consequences. This is the kind of consideration we have to deal with in the process of establishing or devising a new law on environmental assessment.

We think that as far as policies and programs are concerned there should also be an assessment process. However, we do not think that this assessment process should be identical to the process dealing with projects.

These are interesting and fundamental questions. They will have to be dealt with by Parliament when we have our debate on the enactment of the new law.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The last question and comment will be from the Hon. Member for Davenport.

[*Translation*]

**M. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister for his participation in the environment debate on an opposition day, because it is probably the first time since November 1984 that a Minister of Environment takes part in an opposition day on this issue. I really congratulate him.

I would like to ask him a question following the last one. When is the Government, which the Minister is a member of, going to give the mandate of environmental protection and sustainable development promotion, which ought to be the concern and the mandate of each federal Department? I am not talking about an assessment system, but about a mandate for each Department.

Therefore, I would also like to ask him if he agrees with the spirit and the essence of the policy on energy megaprojects, which are now proposed by his colleague, the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources (Mr. Epp).

**Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for the kind words he had for me and for recognizing that fact. I think it is very important that the Minister of Environment be present for this kind of debate which gives us an opportunity to go beyond those simple questions and answers during Oral Question

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Period and to elaborate on the Government's intentions about future projects.

That being said, as for the first part of the question, the interdepartmental committee on environment which I chair does have, I think, the primary responsibility of recommending to the Government the adoption of new rules for its decision-making process.

I believe it is important that under the new decision-making framework each department have a basic responsibility with regard to environment. I agree with the Hon. Member that environment should not and shall never be the Department of Environment's only concern. It is a basic concern which goes to the very heart of governmental responsibility, and that must be reflected in the adoption of a new decision-making process which permits each department to play its role to the fullest and to assume its responsibilities. We are aware of the fact that this way of seeing things implies radical changes and that basically what the situation asks for is to make fundamental alterations and mutations to the way governments work. There is need to change drastically bureaucratic attitudes. There is need also, something certainly more difficult, to change political attitudes.

That is the way things are and I intend, in fact I already started, to suggest some amendments and a decision-making framework to the Cabinet.

On the other hand, the Hon. Member alluded to policy statements on energy from my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Whether we like it or not, the energy problem goes to the heart of environmental concerns. There will be no environmental solution to the real problems we are faced with, that is the global warming trend and the thinning of the ozone layer, nor will there be any solution to those great issues without going through a new definition of energy policies.

My colleague, who is involved with the Interdepartmental Committee on the Environment, agrees completely with me that energy policies do have immediate effects on the environment, but more importantly, that they also have long term, effects on the way we act towards our ecosystem and natural heritage. On the one hand, that means that we are experiencing some kind of