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Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): It is a very well balanced plan, a very well balanced set of measures, legislative, clean-up operations, new policies which will allow Canada to stay in the forefront of pollution combat in the world.

I am always pained, Mr. Speaker, sincerely pained, to hear speeches like the one which has been delivered just now ridiculing the Prime Minister of Canada for having been honoured in the world for his record in environment. This is so mean, Mr. Speaker. It is so mean because if you travel all over the world—I just came back from The Hague, and there were 24 countries all over the world meeting in The Hague, and I could see that all those people consider Canada, our country, as one of the leaders of the world as far as environment is concerned, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): And I am sure that our Canadians are proud, too, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that all Liberals, all NDP Members are proud, too. It remains for the leaders of those Parties to be proud equally.

There are some prestigious leaders of the world like Mrs. Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway. She has signed the famous report on sustainable development. She developed the concept with a team of people, and among them a Canadian who more or less wrote the report himself, with Mrs. Brundtland chairing the commission. It was in The Hague with all those people from Europe and Australia, Japan and New Zealand, Francophones and Anglophones all of whom paid tribute to Mr. Mulroney, and then when you come back to Canada, you hear strange things.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we will go through the Alaska crisis. We have offered our help to our American friends. We are ready to help them to step in as much as they want. We have already provided them with a lot of equipment, people, surveillance, expertise. We are ready to do more. We are very proud to do it. I feel no humiliation in helping the Americans to fight this pollution problem. It is a duty for us because it is a problem for Canadians.

Ms. Copps: Who is going to pay?

Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): I would like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I am sure that Canadians reject partisanship in environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): I would like to live to see a joint effort from all Canadians, Liberal Members, NDP Members, Conservative Members to fight the good cause, the cause of environment for Canada and for its future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Charest: Mr. Speaker, I won't keep the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett), who got up simultaneously with me, from speaking for very long. I just wanted to report to you and to the House that after some brief discussions with representatives, the House Leader of the New Democratic Party and the Member for Ottawa Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), we can agree immediately. I am happy to report that we could agree immediately after the speech from the Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca that the Members should start making speeches of 10 minute duration. That way we can get as many speeches in as possible. We have not yet dealt with the issue of going past midnight, but, Mr. Speaker, we will pursue our discussions. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: I understand that an agreement has been reached among Members concerning the continuation of the debate.

[*English*]

Is there agreement to the proposition put forward by the Hon. Minister?

Mr. Gauthier: If I understood the Minister correctly, the offer is that we reduce the speaking time to 10 minutes, and that is it. We would be agreeable to extending that agreement past midnight, particularly if the Minister would be so nice tonight and agreeable that he would agree to go past midnight. That way we could plan.

Mr. Charest: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to start negotiating on the floor of the House but I would just—

Mr. Gauthier: I made a proposal to you.

Mr. Charest: Yes, to be of service to the Hon. Members from both Parties what I am able to say now, without excluding the possibility of going beyond midnight, is that we can start, right after the speech from the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, having 10 minute speeches from Members, and I think that is some progress, with a view to getting in as many Members as possible, and that as soon as we have had other discussions, we will be able to determine whether it is possible to go beyond midnight.