

S.O. 31

TELEPHONE CHARGES

N.B.TEL FEE CANCELLATION

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I recently brought to the attention of N.B. Tel a fee charged for the listing of 1-800 numbers in my province. This is a nuisance fee that hurts all businesses, particularly small businesses.

Yesterday I received a reply from the president of N.B. Tel on this matter agreeing with me that it is a nuisance fee and should be removed. N.B.Tel will be taking this matter before the New Brunswick Public Utilities Commission in the hopes that the fee will be dropped.

I commend N.B. Tel for this very progressive move and I also request that the Public Utilities Commission accept this proposal put forward by N.B.Tel and urge that all public utilities across the nation follow N.B.Tel's lead in this regard.

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• (1410)

ENVIRONMENT

INTERNATIONAL AWARD—PRIME MINISTER

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, for the second time in as many months we have seen the embarrassing spectacle of a Canadian politician going to the United States to pick up an award which is neither deserved nor should be accepted.

First, we saw the former Minister of Communications pick up an Oscar. Now we have the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) accepting an environmental award from a group that does not even believe that acid rain is a problem which needs cleaning up.

To give the Prime Minister the environmental award is a little bit like giving the Captain of the *Exxon Valdez* a safe-driving award. It has about as much impact, and it is just about as relevant.

Let us look at the facts. I would like to call this to the attention of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard). During the life of this Government a half a billion dollars in actual spending has been cut from environmental programs.

[Translation]

If the Minister of the Environment (Mr. L. Bouchard) really has the ear of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), why was his budget cut by half a billion dollars? If the

environment is really this Government's priority, why did the Prime Minister cut the Minister's budget by half a billion dollars? Is that fair?

[English]

He should be ashamed to accept the award.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

INTERNATIONAL AWARD—PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is fleeing the fall-out of his Budget, a Budget that is a complete reversal of Conservative campaign promises.

Where is he off to? He is off to accept an American award in Boston for his contribution to international understanding. Perhaps we should offer such an award to attract the PM to western Canada, to look into matters such as forestry, oil spills, and alienation.

Where next goes the master of double-talk but to Washington to receive a European award for his dedication to environmental management everywhere outside Canada? Perhaps we should offer one here in Canada in the hope that he will realize that Canada has only 1.3 per cent of our lands protected in national parks.

The award-giver, Prime Minister Brundtland, recommended that at least 12 per cent of lands in every nation and region be protected in conservation zones. Perhaps the PM will return home to announce the doubling of national parks and conservation areas. After all, only one-half of our national bioregions have any protection at all.

Perhaps the PM will find enough courage to tell President Bush to keep the oil rigs and oil spills out of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, home to our 180,000 caribou.

If he does not do these things for Canadians while accepting awards abroad, then he is revealed as a fraud.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham): Mr. Speaker, the whole world is watching with utmost hope as the two superpowers and other countries with nuclear weapons attempt to move from a balance of power based on deterrence to a new global stability based on trust and other confidence-building measures.