Mr. Speaker, if you go over those laws which are presently in effect in Canada, you will come to the conclusion that if the Government of Canada were doing its job, you would not need another bill to be introduced into the Parliament of Canada, passed by the Senate and made law, to deal with the protection of the environment. But the reality in dealing with the principle of this bill is that we have more problems today than we ever had with the environment and the reasons are quite simple.

If one looks at the Environmental Protection Act which was brought in to protect our enviornment and which outlawed polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs, and other substances that harm the environment, one would say, "Well, that is wonderful, that will protect our environment, that will protect our forest land, our trees, our walkways, all of the areas of nature that we have across this country".

But, Mr. Speaker, what does the federal Department of the Environment suggest to the power companies or to anybody else who wishes to construct a power line or keep it clear or construct a road or a right-of-way? It says, why not use a chemical called 2,4-D? That will kill all of the trees, the plants and the flowers and everything else, all along that power line. It is pretty cheap as well. So a toxic chemical is placed in the Canadian environment, from one part of Canada to the other, to kill all of that vegetation. Everywhere that pole line and that roadway goes, anything goes to get rid of plants, trees, and things that might interfere with that particular development.

The Government of Canada has on its books an act called the Environmental Protection Act suggesting to anybody who wishes to do so that, yes, we approve of the use of a chemical called 2-4-D to get rid of every single thing in the path of that power line, road, or right-of-way from one area of Canada to the other. Can you imagine the number of Canadians who go out every year to pick berries by the side of the road or on a pole line? Does any Canadian think about why it is those wild raspberries or wild strawberries grow so well in those areas, or why a blueberry grows so well under a power line, not knowing that perhaps two months or one day previous, a toxic chemical which kills vegetation was sprayed in that area?

Under provincial licences, there is supposed to be a sign put up. But how many signs can be put up? The Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment approves of that toxic chemical sprayed in our environment, taken away by the rain and the streams in all parts of Canada. You might say that is not bad because it is just on the power lines and the roadways. What about our wilderness areas and forest lands?

We have an Environmental Protection Act which allows the use of a tree killer called 2-4-D to be used in any part of Canada. It is used today and was used from one part of Canada to the other this year.

Turning to the forests,there is the Clean Air Act. The Department of the Environment, together with the Department of Agriculture, suggests to the paper companies that they should go up in an aeroplane and spray another toxic chemical all over the forests, in western Canada to kill the beetle and in eastern and central Canada to kill the spruce budworm, the hemlock looper, or the balsam woolly aphid. The Government of Canada says: "You can do that. We suggest you do that. Here is a list of the chemicals we will give you approved by Environment Canada for use to kill the particular insects that you want to get rid of."

Province after province this summer bought one of the most toxic chemicals ever studied by man, apart from DDT which was used in the fifties. They bought fenitrothion and matacil and they sprayed it over enormous areas of forest land from aeroplanes.

If we get the picture, we might go into our wilderness area and leave the pole line or roadway, where the plant killer 2-4-D is used, and walk into the forest, where on all of the trees in little oil droplets is a toxic chemical called fenitrothion which is designed to kill specific insects such as the beetle, the balsam woolly aphid, the hemlock looper, and the spruce budworm.

• (1220)

The Department of the Environment has a study done by the National Research Council on the use of fenitrothion. The study shows that chemical, used in Canada under the auspices of the federal Department of the Environment, has killed not only the forest insects they are trying to get rid of, but it has killed bees, harmless insects, and it has killed the birds, the very predators of the insects they are trying to get rid of.