

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to remind the Member and advise the House that of course Canada has already made some very significant steps with respect to the reduction of acid rain and with respect to domestic production of it. As the Hon. Member knows, there is a program in place which will lead to a 50 per cent reduction from 1980 allowable emissions.

As the Hon. Member also knows, tighter emission controls are in place with respect to automobiles. This Government accelerated the program to reduce use of leaded gasoline to 1990. I think the program announcement will receive the support of all Members of the House.

However, as the Hon. Member also knows, the greatest source of acid rain in this country originates not here but in the United States. I think all the evidence indicates that there is some reason for optimism because of the program which we anticipate the President of the United States will introduce into Congress perhaps early next week. We hope that will lead to an accord. If the House works together to ensure that this accord will be in the best interests of all Canadians, we will get the type of control we have needed for a long, long time.

• (1150)

## AMERICAN LEGISLATION ON ACID RAIN

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I realize that we have to tighten controls, but I suggest that the proposed legislation in California could be considered here. It is very much more rigid than what we have here.

The Parliamentary Secretary mentioned tight domestic controls. At this very moment the Americans are preparing their own legislation on acid rain. The governors are viewing first-hand the death of maple trees in the region I represent, and I have visited the area in the past.

Perhaps the member could convey this fact to the Minister. If we want tougher domestic controls, and we know the Americans are preparing their own legislation, is this not the opportune time to show political will to our neighbours to the south that we intend to correct the problems of acid rain in this country? If we can send the Americans a signal through strict and rigid legislation in

the House, they will get the message and we would be on the right road if we had the political will to do it.

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, first, I remind the Hon. Member that problems such as acid rain are not problems which have originated in this country since 1984. They have originated over an extended period of time. If the Hon. Member is willing to be honest, he would concede the fact that there has been more progress with respect to acid rain and reduction of emissions since 1984 than there was in the previous administration.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Brandon—Souris):** I would also suggest to the Hon. Member that Canada, this Government, and I would include all of Parliament in that process, have provided a significant amount of leadership. I believe that we have led the United States and that we will see some fruits of that leadership in the announcement next week.

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## SPACE INDUSTRY

## SHORTAGE OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He must have been as shocked as I was to hear the Prime Minister talk about replacing scientists as easily as buying a new car.

Does the Prime Minister not know that it is the overwhelming opinion of the scientific community and of the space industry that this country faces a crisis in the supply of qualified people for the space program?

Has the Prime Minister even read the report of a standing committee of this House which stated that there was a critical shortage of space scientists and engineers?

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, whenever a new agency is established or there is movement of an agency, we are bound to lose some people in that move.

What is important for us, and indeed for all Members of the House, is to ensure that that move is made as effectively as possible and that the people involved in the move are given as much support as they possibly can