

Private Members' Business

environment and they were now, arguably to those people, going to in fact hurt the environment.

I tried to rationalize this. Why would an organization like that want to do it. They had environmental hearings and I participated because I basically support most of their efforts. Undoubtedly they have made some mistakes in some of their conversions of habitat and created some new problems, but I think they have a tremendous track record. Yet, unless the legislation was changed in Manitoba, it was very possible for a few individuals, only two or three sometimes, to stop an entire project that I see as being nothing but of benefit.

We have to question whether we should continue to make those kinds of rules that allow that to happen. In my view there has to be certain limits. I believe the pendulum has swung too far now in terms of all kinds of legislation to stop what I think sometimes is a very common sense approach to projects.

I am not going to take away from what is intended here because I think we all recognize that. We come here to make laws. That is what we were elected for. That is the only thing we really do. We are legislators. We make laws. But I often think we make too darned many laws. It confuses the entire operation of our country sometimes. If I have criticism of this particular piece of proposed legislation I think it is maybe just adding another law. I would hope not, but this is what I am saying. Maybe we have enough rules and regulations if we would only implement them. I think the hon. member opposite would admit that all too often we do not exercise the options available to us. She jumps up and down and says: "Is that right?" In that case, maybe I should amend her resolution.

An hon. member: It is not a law.

Mr. Holtmann: It is not a law, that is correct. The point is that Canada prides itself on being a great nation, but we have a lot of areas where we have probably neglected our environment, there is no doubt about it. We have had so many resources and so many companies in the resource industries that have violated the environment and hurt so many areas with no regard to anything but the almighty dollar. It happened to our rivers and

streams in Manitoba. It happened to our Great Lakes in Ontario.

What is going to happen at Pearson International Airport? You see, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is happening at Pearson International Airport.

I think the point is that we have to look at this in a very sensible and logical way. We are not leaders in a lot of things. We produce more garbage per capita, we are garbage producers. We produce garbage by the megatonne. Maybe we should be charging not \$40 a tonne for garbage but \$400 a tonne and start making people pay for that garbage.

There is a different way of looking at it because I believe just west of this great city there is a mega mountain of garbage being produced and hopefully maybe there will be a park there. My colleague says this new law will prevent it. Well, there are no assurances of that, but I am not sure that with some common sense we can produce less of this garbage, but if that could be done it would be the route to go.

I thought I would just make a few comments on that subject, Mr. Speaker, and I would not like to see us bringing in more and more rules and regulations without making sure we know what ramifications they might have on projects that are coming onstream.

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my colleague from Ottawa West. I served with her on the Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and I have a lot of respect for her motion and her motives.

The member's motion requests that the House express its view as to whether the government should require all departments and agencies to carry out environmental assessments of their budget proposals.

I have no quarrel with the hon. member's underlying objective. There is a general consensus within Canada that the key to solving our environmental problems is better environmental decision making. This was stressed throughout the green plan consultations that were held across Canada last year.

We already have in place the measures necessary to ensure sound environment decision making within the federal government. In the green plan, the federal