

Supply

[English]

Mr. MacWilliam: Mr. Speaker, you have ruled that in fact my hon. colleague had utilized his time at the point where the discussion of House proceedings did in fact take place whereas, with all due respect, I happened to be timing the Member at that point. It was in fact seven minutes and 30 seconds. Given the fact that considerable debate did take place on the point of order that was raised at that point, I would estimate that the time left for the Member was in fact two and a half to three minutes.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière)): With deepest regrets according to the information available to me I complied with the directions I received when Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and again I will allow five minutes for questions from Hon. Members.

[English]

Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, during this debate I have been listening very carefully to the comments of people from different regions of this country. Perhaps I can share at this time, in response to the last speaker, some of the concerns that have been raised on the Prairies about the environmental issues that we have raised directly in our motion.

For example, consider what this Government has done in not following up its promises for the Centre for Sustainable Development. They moved from the language that they are going to be sponsoring this centre into the language that they may be participating. Right now, we have no centre.

Second, right now the Quebec and Alberta Governments are negotiating the transport of PCB liquids and solids from Quebec to in and around the City of Edmonton. That goes through the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Where are the Minister of Transport (Mr. B. Bouchard) and Minister of Environment (Mr. L. Bouchard) on that issue? They are silent.

Third, the City of Winnipeg right now has the problem of the Shoal Lake water system being threatened by a mining venture in the middle of the lake. Is there any environmental impact assessment being undertaken by the federal Government? The answer is no. Are they asking the provincial Government to undertake one? The answer is no. They are silent again on that issue.

• (1730)

Another issue facing us in the West is the Rafferty-Alameda Dam. The Government had to be yanked into court by the Canadian Wildlife Federation in order to get it to agree to do an environmental assessment. Lo and behold, what was found out in that environmental assessment? Sure enough, there would be a lot more damage than the Government anticipated, and maybe now it will conduct public hearings into the process.

The Alberta Government has announced that if the federal Government is going to adhere to the stronger environmental protection regulations, it will not allow its forestry industry developments to be influenced in any way, shape or form by those new regulations. In other words, the federal Government cannot convince its close political allies to participate in environmental impact studies when that is the essence of the way that we should be making decisions nowadays.

The federal Government has been very slow to take up on a new project in northwestern Manitoba. A smelter needs to be modernized in Flin Flon. Many jobs are dependent upon it. There is acid rain pollution throughout the central part of this continent which comes from this plant. The Government has been willing to modernize plants in other areas, but has not been able to come to an agreement on this one. It is a very important project for Manitobans.

I wanted to raise those issues in the House in this debate on the environment. We must become very national in our orientation and very sensitive to how the environmental issues affect not only people in large cities, but also people in isolated communities. These concerns are equally important for all Canadians.

Mr. Young (Beaches—Woodbine): I am not sure if the Hon. Member had a question, as much as it was a comment. However, I certainly appreciate the concerns the Hon. Member expresses on behalf of his own constituents, and certainly the people in western Canada.

In the whole thrust of this debate, I do not think there is any strong disagreement along partisan lines in the House. Most legislators have now come to the conclusion that the environment does not belong to us. We borrow the environment from future generations. We have absolutely no right at all to despoil it by our irresponsible actions. That is something that Members on all sides of the House can readily agree with.