

*Supply*

It is not enough for the Government to say that it will make new regulations for the future. It has to apply the current laws. I encourage the Minister to look at his internal report which was released by Greenpeace, and which was kept secret by his Department for a couple of years, to see if he could not follow the recommendations in his own report.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I have a specific question for the Hon. Member. All Parties in the House have endorsed in one way or another the Brundtland report, the World Commission Report on the Environment, released two years ago. It deals on the one side with pollution and environmental destruction, but on the other, there is a very fundamental recommendation that applies to Canada. It is that we increase the amount of lands and conservation areas from its present level of about 5 per cent to 12 per cent.

We know, even in the area of national parks, that there are 39 bio-regions in Canada and only 20 per cent of those regions even have a small national park presence.

Would the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) support that basic recommendation, that 12 per cent of the lands in Canada be set aside in various conservation zones, keeping in mind that only 1.3 per cent of the lands in Canada right now are in national parks? I think the issue of conservation requires all-Party solidarity to move toward that 12 per cent minimum target.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I know it is not the custom of the House to thank anyone, but I would like to thank the Speaker for having put together a presentation a couple of weeks ago, which originally arose from the question of the Brazilian rain forest. While I have experience with environmental questions in relation to my own community, it was extremely effective in bringing home to me as the environment critic how quickly we are losing our own indigenous forests in Canada, which, in some cases, date back 2,000 years.

We must ensure that we do not fall into the trap of demanding action in Brazil or the Third World when, in our own areas in Canada—the most beautiful forest-landed country in the world—we are fast killing off our own forests.

I certainly agree that the Brundtland recommendation of 12 per cent should be our objective. Whether that can be achieved in this Parliament or the near future is something the Environment Committee will look at in the next couple of weeks.

**Mr. Pagtakhan:** Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba greeted with joy the announcement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) before the election that the International Centre for Sustainable Development would be established in Winnipeg. Of course, they were disappointed when they heard in the Throne Speech that the Government would only participate.

Earlier, in response to a question by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), I thought I heard from the Minister of the Environment that money is available in the present Estimates, although we do not see it very clearly.

• (1300)

I have a question for the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). Does she think it is a must, that it is fair and ethical that establishment of this Centre for Sustainable Development should start this year if it is truly within this year's budget?

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, if you have been following the debate you would know that when I asked that specific question of the Minister from where the funds were coming in this year's Estimates he was unable to tell us. Basically he—

[*Translation*]

Essentially he appealed for supplementary Estimates.  
[*English*]

He made an appeal, saying that maybe that matter will come up in the Supplementary Estimates.

I am disturbed and appalled that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) would use an international forum like the United Nations, which is the forum that he used, in a rather convenient way, to launch this pre-electoral promise if he did not intend to follow through on it. If he gave a partisan political speech in Hamilton, people might expect him to make promises that he has no intention of delivering, and from this Prime Minister that would not be a surprise. But it was a surprise that he abused the United Nations in this way.