

a general fear and apprehension over this spill. Meanwhile, the Minister is behaving like a latter day Lady MacBeth trying to absolve herself of responsibility. "Out, damned spot!" She hopes it is going to go away. She is a modern day Lady MacBeth hoping that the environmental traces left by this poison across the Trans-Canada Highway will go away and that people will forget about it. People are not going to forget about it. They are not going to forgive or forget.

There was a PCB spill on Friday in the Bank of Canada building in the capital. I do not know how much was spilled. I do not know whether the Minister has been advised of it yet. I would advise her to consult her colleagues. One employee has been affected already. I will give her a little lead time because we are going to ask her about it tomorrow, perhaps. *Avis au préalable.*

The Hon. Minister cannot wash her hands of this dangerous spill. She cannot wash her hands of the responsibility which she and the Government have to ensure that Canadians are protected from these dangerous chemicals. It is in the legislation and in her mandate as Minister. It is high time she lived up to her responsibility.

How many other trucks on the roads are carrying these toxic chemicals? How many other people's lives and health are being put at risk? We do not know. What is even more shocking and disturbing is that the Government does not know either. It is high time that the Government abandoned the idea that the protection of the environment and of Canadians from dangerous substances is something to be placed last on a list of priorities. It is not. It is time that the Government abandoned the idea that it is OK to ravage our environment today, because we can always clean it up. In fact we cannot. It is high time the Government abandoned the idea that provincial Governments, the private sector, or Governments of other countries are going to take the lead in protecting our environment. Mr. Speaker, they are not.

It is high time the Government woke up to the fact that Canadians are not going to sit idly by while the responsibility to protect and enhance our environment is neglected, because they will not, and neither will Members on this side of the House. We will not allow the Government to continue in its direction, negligence and abandonment of its responsibilities affecting the birthright, heritage, and environment of the country.

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

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, although I agree with a great many of the things that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) said, the motion moved by the Official Opposition has to do with environmental policy in general. In that context I would like to ask him a question about an issue on which his caucus seems to be speaking with two voices. My question is with regard to the proposal known as the Grand Canal. That is a proposal to damn James Bay, turn it into a fresh water lake of great magnitude, and pipe or otherwise divert water from there to southern Ontario and to the United States of America.

### Supply

I have heard two different voices from the Liberal caucus on this matter. I have heard the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) indicate that he is against that, if I understood him correctly. On Friday I heard the Hon. Member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey) speak favourably about that same project. He asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) about it, and the Prime Minister seemed to speak favourably about that megaproject.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest environmental issues of the coming decade will be the future of water in this country and how we handled the 20 per cent of the world's water supply that happens to be entrusted to Canadians. Would the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition tell us where he stands on this megaproject proposal? I happen to think it is one of the most bizarre ideas to come along in a long time.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman from Winnipeg-Birds Hill took some advice from one of our Alberta colleagues who has been around here for a long time. I was here in 1962 and 1963 and had the honour of being the Parliamentary Secretary to the late Arthur Laing who was then the Member of Parliament for Vancouver South and our Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, as he then called the portfolio. He was a very great British Columbian and a great Canadian. I had the responsibility of liaising with the standing committee. In those days we brought our treaties to Parliament. My first task was piloting through the committee the Columbia River Treaty, which involved the export of water to the United States. I recognized the concern that was building up in British Columbia and across the country with regard to whether we would ever have a future Columbia River Treaty type of project or whether we would keep the water and export the power instead.

In 1963, Tom Kierns, who was then living in Sudbury and now lives in St. John's, Newfoundland, brought his Grand River project, or Harricaw River project as it was then called, before the standing committee. He asked to be heard as a witness. I had the opportunity of listening to him and cross-examining him on behalf of the Liberal Members on that committee.

That project involved the diversion of waters that are now flowing aimlessly into Hudson's Bay and the Arctic, back into the Great Lakes river system and the joint international waterways of the United States and Canada. It was very deep environmental and economic impacts. It goes right to the heart of the political sovereignty of our waters. My colleague, the Member for Davenport, has taken a personal position against the export of water. I can understand his feelings. I can understand the feelings of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador, who wants the project constructively studied.

I think this matter should come before the House and a standing committee so that the economic, environmental, political and social impacts can be analysed and we can determine whether Canadians wish to become part of a North American water scheme.