

*Oral Questions*

approach, something which the hon. member so often puts forward.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** My supplementary is for the Minister of the Environment. The Minister came up yesterday with the idea for a new tax, an environmental tax as he called it. My question is for the Minister who is looking for money. How much did he spend last week to have his news conference on his Green Plan broadcasted via satellite?

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister may want to respond.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the question would better be dealt with at another level than the House of Commons. I will gladly disclose all the information that might be required on that subject. There is nothing to hide. We are most willing to do that. I would point out, however, that the leader of the New Democratic Party neglected a very important aspect of our plan. Consultation has just started—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to be given a chance to answer the question, if I may. The consultation process that has just begun is crucial. I believe this whole House should support a process that will give our country its first five-year environmental action plan. And we will be the first country in the world to have one. I urge the leader of the New Democratic Party to give us her support.

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[*English*]

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner of Official Languages tabled his report in the House today.

In the annual report the Commissioner gives the government failing grades on its application of the new official language law. The government put up no infor-

mation program. It co-ordinated no campaign. It did nothing to counter the divisive misinformation spread by certain groups and individuals in this country.

This government has failed to communicate to Canadians the objectives and provisions of linguistic reform.

I ask the Prime Minister to show some firm leadership on this issue, to instruct his ministers to stand in their places—20 months after the adoption by this House of an official language law—and give it regulations. For God's sake, let us have some courage and do what we have to do here in this House.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows perfectly well, Bill C-72 provides for a special and complex process. It provides for consultation with minority groups, and I can inform the House that most of these consultations have taken place. They have indicated the need for some changes in the draft regulations submitted to these groups. These changes are now being made. Once the consultation process is complete, the government will decide when the draft regulations will be tabled in the House.

Finally, I can say that this government is deeply committed to this process. Our purpose in tabling the regulations on C-72 will be to adopt official languages regulations that are fair and equitable for all Canadians.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner of Official Languages stressed the inertia of federal departments and agencies. They are stuck between the new legislation and 20 years' worth of obsolete guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I put this question to the President of the Treasury Board for the fourth time this year. Considering the lack of leadership afflicting federal departments and agencies today, leadership that is the responsibility of the minister, as employer but also as minister responsible for official languages, will the minister have the courage to table his regulations very shortly, since, as we know, the consultation process is complete?

I also want to know, since he claims he is still consulting, who he is consulting with? With his American friends?