

*Adjournment Debate*

I refer the Hon. Member to the adjournment debate of June 16 where I fully addressed the environmental issue directly by stating that "environmental concerns have been paramount in our search for a suitable location for this range". Indeed, I may add that all relevant aspects which could have any impact on the population, the fauna, the flora, the creatures and birds have been very closely looked at. The fact is that this is a clean range area. It is an effective area in which pilots of the F-18 can demonstrate this state of the art equipment.

TRADE—CANADA—UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON POSSIBLE TREATY

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, I know you are a very busy person. I know you are busy looking after the affairs of the House and presiding in the Chamber. You are busy solving the problems of your constituents. You are busy answering the mail and the telephone, I suspect that you may even find time for the odd game of golf. However, because you are such a busy person, Sir, I would not be surprised if you missed the opportunity to read the newspapers lately and probably you have missed an article this weekend about a company in Cornwall, Ontario, which was prosecuted by the Ontario Government for polluting the St. Lawrence River. This particular company was convicted and fined some \$15,000 for polluting the St. Lawrence River.

That article brought back to my mind experiences I have had. In fact, it brought to mind a series of trials I had when I practised law for a living. My client in a particular case was a smelter. He melted down scrap metal, separated and recycled it and turned it into a useful purpose. Every once in a while that smelter let off a little puff of smoke. The Ontario Government alleged that that puff of smoke was air pollution, so it laid charges against my client and prosecuted him.

This went on for some period of time. Every time there was a puff of smoke, there would be another charge laid. Every time there were two puffs of smoke, there would be two charges laid. As I thought about all of that, it brought to mind as well the position of Ontario Hydro.

Here is a large Ontario Crown corporation which, because it produces power to a large extent through coal burning thermal generating stations, is one of the greatest causes of air pollution, of acid rain emissions, in the entire Province of Ontario.

● (1815)

It struck me as strange, and I expect it will strike you as strange, Mr. Speaker, that here is Ontario Hydro causing all this air pollution and these acid rain producing emissions, yet it is not being told to shut down. It is not being told to stop. It is not being prosecuted by the Government of Ontario, led by Premier David Peterson. All that seems awfully strange to me.

It seems to me awfully strange that Ontario would be treating private industry that it has alleged is causing air pollution one way but treating its own closely-held Crown corporation, Ontario Hydro, in an entirely different way. That

seems very strange to me. I am not suggesting for a moment that we should not be prosecuting private polluters. I am not suggesting that we should lay off them; we should be prosecuting them. We should be getting them to stop polluting. But why, then, are we not getting one of the biggest air polluters and one of the biggest causes of acid rain in Ontario to stop as well?

Mr. Speaker, you know, I know, and Ontario Premier David Peterson knows that our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and our federal Government are doing a great deal about the question of acid rain. As we know, the Prime Minister has placed this issue at the top of his own personal agenda in discussions with the President of the United States. In fact, it is the first time ever that that has been done by a Prime Minister of Canada. We also know that he has been trying to get the United States to stop acid rain producing emissions and air pollution. He has been successful in getting many of the provinces to agree to cut back on their acid rain producing emissions. The Government has brought down new auto emission standards that will come into play in September to help cut down on acid rain.

In addition to that, the Government has committed some \$300 million to the fighting of acid rain. As well, it commissioned a study which reported last summer that if Ontario Hydro would only start using low-sulphur western coal instead of high-sulphur American coal that it could cut its own acid rain producing emissions by some 50 per cent. So the federal Government has been doing a great deal about acid rain. Why then is Ontario Premier David Peterson and his Government not taking any action with Ontario Hydro when it is a Crown corporation? It is a Crown corporation of the Province of Ontario. Why is it not putting its own house in order?

We know that Premier Peterson has said that Ontario Hydro is locked into its contractual arrangements with the United States for at least five years. Is that any excuse? Would the Premier take that excuse from private industry? I know that you are a lawyer, Mr. Speaker. It has been said that any contract can be broken, that any contract is made to be broken. I know that Your Honour is a pretty good lawyer. Have you been asked to take a look at this contract to see if there is a way out of it? Premier Peterson is a lawyer. I wonder if he has taken a look at this contract to see if there is a way out of it. I know darn well that if this were a private industry that, for sure, Premier Peterson would be telling it to get out of that contract and start using low-sulphur coal.

In addition, the Premier says that it costs too much money to transport coal from western Canada. He says that it costs 47 per cent more to bring it from western Canada than to get it from the United States. Would the Premier accept that excuse from private industry? Not on your life, Mr. Speaker. You know as well as I do that he would be telling private industry, no matter what it costs, to clean up its act. I do not know why the Premier and the Government of Ontario would ever treat Ontario Hydro in a different way from the way they treat private industry in their own province as far as air