

Supply

Our initiatives to clean up the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River and, together with the provinces, to further the process of cleaning up dangerous landsites, will proceed. Next June, my provincial counterparts and I will receive the federal-provincial report on policy recommendations. We will also continue to encourage the expansion of Canada's environmental industry. That is a very important point. Many people believe that the environment involves only negative measures. In fact, this is an area where because of the resources that have already been deployed, the initiatives that have been launched and the experience we have already gained, we as Canadians have a chance to open up vast foreign markets for our exports of environmental equipment.

Mr. Speaker, the Environmental Partners Fund will also go ahead. This fund will encourage individual Canadians to take part in community projects designed to find solutions to environmental problems.

In the agricultural sector, the Budget reiterates the Government's commitment to making environmentally sustainable development the focus of its policies. We must achieve a better integration of the concept of sustainable development in federal agricultural programs, and we intend to do so. We will start with a major review of our pesticides registration system. We have also ensured that toxic waste treatment plants are exempted from sales tax and commodity tax.

• (1210)

[*English*]

I have just described some of the activities which will be initiated by the Government in this Parliament. It will be a "green" Parliament, I can assure you of that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): You will judge the results.

In closing, controlling the debt requires a concerted effort on the part of everyone, an effort now and for several years to come. The measures in the recent Budget attest to the seriousness of the situation. We had tough decisions to make and we made them.

Government program spending will be reduced significantly. Some plans will be put on the back burner. Others have been trimmed. We have done our best to ensure maximum return on the taxpayers' dollar. We have acted as reliable administrators.

We know that we must do more, but we must do it together. I invite you all to work within your cities, your communities, your workplaces and your families, to join in the implementation of fundamental changes which are not only our history but our instinct for survival, not only the collective morality, but our respect for life. Let us ensure that we will look back one day at this point in time as one in which we contributed substantially to setting the world on a new path, a path of respect for the values which impart supreme dignity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments.

Mr. MacWilliam: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister for the Environment (Mr. Bouchard) has made some rather enlightening statements about the promises the Government has made with respect to environmental issues. I fully intend at a later time to demonstrate very clearly in this House just how shallow those promises are.

Many of the promises that have been made in respect to environmental initiatives have not been carried out by the Government. I intend to show very clearly that it demonstrates the kind of doublespeak that we have had from Members on the opposite side of the House on a number of issues.

At this point I would like to make comments and ask the Minister some very specific questions in terms of my own constituency which is located in the southern interior of British Columbia, the constituency of Okanagan—Shuswap. I would like to say that the concern for the environment is the primary issue, bar none. People throughout the Okanagan value the lifestyle of their communities and the quality of life in their communities. They are very, very concerned about what they consider as environmental problems.

I would like to ask the Minister very specifically what plans he has for protecting the watersheds of the Okanagan and Shuswap lakes with respect to encroaching Eurasian milfoil weed problems. Both regional governments and provincial governments have found it impossible to keep up with the spending necessary to fight this nuisance weed that is growing throughout the lakes. It is really affecting the tourism industry.