

Supply

public feels the environment is one priority that cannot be compromised and muddled up in politics. It is beyond partisanship. The value of clean air and clean water and the environment is something that should not be compromised. Environmental considerations cannot be an add on or an after-thought. They must be made integral to economic policy making and planning and a required element of any economic development proposal.

One of the reasons I wanted to speak on this important issue is the effect of carelessness, as well as the lack of government commitment to the environment and the effect it may have on my riding in the Western Arctic.

• (1510)

I realize that the environment does not adhere to barriers or does not adhere to the walls that we think should be put up to isolate a problem in one area. That is not the way it works with pollution and with the environment.

The environmental problems facing the north, for instance, are extensive. The most serious include Arctic toxic pollution, ozone destruction, and the greenhouse effect. Acid rain is a bilateral problem that knows no borders, as I indicated. Acid rain potentially may affect all sectors of the environment including human health. The most persuasive evidence has been assembled for aquatic systems. It is well known that freshwater bodies begin to show biological damage at about a very moderate level of acidity. As well, discussion of long-range transport of air pollutants can no longer be restricted to oxides of sulphur and nitrogen. Hydrocarbons are interfacing with these new gases at low atmospheric levels, producing damaging ozone. Toxic pollutants such as pesticides, metals and PCBs are being emitted and volatilizing from aerial spraying and open bodies of water, to be deposited at great distances away. The ecological damage of acid rain is generally understood, but the associated human morbidity and potential long-term health effects are not.

Pollutants in the environment can wreak unforeseen results, among them a global warming trend that could push average temperatures higher than any in the experience of the human race. A nuclear winter caused by global war might mean the end of most life forms. These are sometimes viewed as radical ideas, but these are not viewed as radical by the scientific community that studies them everyday or by the people who have

extreme concerns about the environment and feel that there should be no compromise.

Despite these problems we have the technologies, tools, and knowledge such as we have never had before to stop the self-destruction. We also need the sensitivity of politicians who really mean what they say and really believe, when they make legislation and commit legislation to the public and to this House that they mean to uphold it, that they do not make deals, and they do not have newspapers saying things that anger the public.

The Edmonton Journal quotes the minister as saying: "I always shake hands with the premiers when they come to see me. That does not mean I have agreed to everything they have put on the table but, in apparent contradiction to the general tone of his remarks, the hon. minister has also said he hopes the Rafferty-Alameda project will be completed. I still very much hope the project will go ahead but will go ahead under the conditions set forth by the court". The public is getting a very mixed message on this one.

I have another quote from *The Globe and Mail* of October 16 which reads: "The panel alleged that workers were already constructing channels with the Rafferty-Alameda in the river downstream from the dam, quite beyond the safety work agreed to and said it needed direction from the minister, the current environment minister. Premier Devine promptly said Saskatchewan would forge ahead with the construction and claimed he and Mr. de Cotret had made a special deal on September 5 to let the work go ahead. Mr. de Cotret denies there was such a deal. Yet nine months after the court's most recent ultimatum no full review has been completed, Saskatchewan is pressing ahead with the dam, and Mr. de Cotret is threatening to retaliate if it does so. Will Canadians need a political assessment to get to the bottom of this mess?"

There are many concerns about this. What this country needs is a government which will encompass environmental security as a cornerstone of all government policies, whether they be defence, foreign affairs, energy, fishing, or forestry. We need to push for acceleration of the ozone protocol, adoption of an international law of the air, measures to ensure rapid reduction in the CO₂ level, and the preservation of tropical rain forests. Taken together, these measures represent a comprehensive and coherent approach to our environment covering preventive, punitive and remedial action as well as both domestic and international aspects. They demonstrate