

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it seems that there may be some doubt about the Government's commitment to preserving Canada's fragile environment. I promise any and all sceptics that the Mulroney Government is solidly in favour of assuring all Canadians that there is clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. It is ludicrous to suggest environmental matters will be put on the back burner. The Government has introduced stringent measures for the control of acid rain at industrial and vehicular sources.

No other federal Canadian Government has dared to tread where this Progressive Conservative assembly has soared. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has pledged his allegiance to the environment. The excellent Minister he appointed to the environmental portfolio is the manifestation of this Government's positive action. For the first time in history this country has the ear of the political machine in the United States regarding transboundary pollution. The Canadian environment has never been in safer hands.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

RESULTS OF DE HAVILLAND PRIVATIZATION

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, just six months ago the Opposition vilified the Government over the divestiture of de Havilland—a money-losing Crown corporation. The Liberals, who poured over \$800 million of taxpayers' hard-earned money into de Havilland, criticized the sale to Boeing as being a bad business deal for Canada.

What are they saying now? With Boeing's strength and marketing know-how, 49 Dash-8s have been sold for over \$400 million; \$25 million has been invested in plant modernization; product line has been expanded to include components for the 747; and 250 new jobs will be added.

Clearly what had been a millstone around the neck of the Canadian taxpayer has been transformed into a productive job-creating enterprise—proof positive that government, which has the power to tax and to regulate, does not have to own or acquire businesses which can be better run by the private sector.

Let us work on Canadair next!

S.O. 21

TRADE

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, today the International Trade Commission took one more step against the softwood lumber producers in this country. Once more the legitimacy of the Conservative thrust for free trade with the United States is being undermined.

What is so frightening is that we know we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. I have here in my hand the so-called "second letter" from President Reagan to Senator Packwood on this issue in which he says clearly: "I want you to know that I am committed to finding a rapid and effective solution to the Canadian softwood lumber problem which restores for the American lumber industry a fair opportunity to compete".

If they do not get their way through this ITC countervail thrust, then they will find another way to get us. Poor British Columbia and poor Canada. We are paying—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, since we will soon be leaving this Chamber for the summer recess, I would like to take this opportunity to urge my Liberal colleagues from the Montreal area to reflect on what has been achieved by this Government since September 1984, so they can inform their constituents objectively on what has been done in Montreal in the last 20 months. In the Montreal area, 46,000 new jobs have been created since September 1984. The number of unemployed workers has dropped by more than 9,000. The value of building permits issued rose from \$295 million in the first quarter of 1985 to \$500 million on the same date in 1986. Hundreds of businesses have started projects that are important for the entire Montreal area. Retail sales have increased by more than 18 per cent.

I hope that during the summer, our Liberal colleagues will find it within themselves to admit their lack of objectivity and frankness *vis-à-vis* the many achievements of this Government in the Montreal area.