

*Oral Questions**[Translation]***THE DEFICIT**

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Martin:** Well, let us give him a chance.

Last week, the minister announced he would get rid of the deficit in four years. Aside from cutting social programs, he was not very specific about how he would do this, probably because it would be too hard on his cabinet colleagues.

That being said, perhaps he could tell us what he intends to do about his own backyard. I am getting to my question. Will the minister confirm that he intends to make cuts in his own department and, if so, where? For instance, would there be more cuts in the green plan?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the hon. member for LaSalle—Émard for his question. I would be delighted to send him a membership card so that he can vote for me on June 13.

I was also glad to hear he is taking a keen interest in our party's leadership campaign and in commitments I made about reducing the deficit and the public debt, commitments which were supported by members of my own party. I proposed a five-point plan which covers all aspects of federal spending.

I can give the hon. member the assurance that, as Prime Minister of Canada, I intend to review all public spending, as all prime ministers must do when they take up their duties.

*[English]*

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, that I would like a card in his party. On the other hand, I am not sure he would want my advice on leadership races.

My supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance or whoever is replacing him. Last week the Minister of the Environment stated that he would erase the deficit in four years. This minister has been a member of this government throughout much of its term. The question therefore is: Has he been keeping the tremendous insights into fiscal policy to himself over

the years? If not, why has the government not adopted his plan?

I speak to the Prime Minister. As the national debt has ballooned under this government over the last decade, why has Canada been deprived of this new-found voice of fiscal rectitude?

• (1445)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** I do not know.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Prime Minister may want to continue, but it might be a good time to stop. The right hon. Prime Minister.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will think about it.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

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**NATIONAL PARKS**

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of the Environment.

As the chain-saws rev up to cut into the hearts of centuries old trees in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, environmentalists around the world are mobilizing to save this example of one of the earth's largest unlogged temperate old-growth forests. The Liberal Party has asked the minister to preserve this global treasure by including it in the Pacific Rim National Park.

Has the minister taken any action to save Clayoquot Sound? Will he take any action?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I received a letter written by the hon. member and the hon. member for LaSalle—Émard on the issue of Clayoquot Sound. I think they would have done well to also send a copy of the letter to the Government of British Columbia given the fact that these lands belong to it and that this is first and foremost a land management issue in the province of British Columbia itself.

The hon. member will know that through the green plan the government has established an approach by which we want all 39 natural regions in Canada represented in our national park system. We now have 23 of them represented including that area. We are now trying to move as rapidly as we can to have the 16 additional regions also represented in the national park system.