

*Resignation—Mr. Rae*

here last year, that the United States would give 100 per cent co-operation to Canada in our mutual fight against acid rain?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member points out two facts. First, the U.S. administration has, according to the hon. member, cut back on the number of its public servants in a certain area. I cannot judge that. I know they have been cutting back rather substantially in many areas and perhaps that is just one of the many areas where this has taken place.

However, in terms of the second fact which was brought forward by the hon. member, I listened to the answer given by the Canadian minister responsible for the environment and it seemed to me that he indicated, on the contrary, that there were more meetings planned, that there had been a draft agreement tabled, that progress was slow but that progress nonetheless was expected.

• (1500)

The hon. member alluded to President Reagan's commitment to me of, I believe, last March, when he was in this House of Commons. He did indeed commit himself to reaching an agreement with Canada on a diminution of energy pollution, and that commitment was restated when I visited the White House in July. I take those commitments as indications of a desire to negotiate in good faith, and I take from the minister's answer some evidence of that desire.

**Mr. Hees:** This is the Americans' way of dragging their feet.

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### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### RESIGNATION OF MR. BOB RAE

**Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Rae:** If hon. members keep this up too long, I'm likely to change my mind!

**Some hon. Members:** No, no!

**Mr. Rae:** I knew that would have the desired effect.

As many hon. members will be aware, I was fortunate enough to be honoured by my provincial party and to be elected to a position of leadership in my native province of Ontario. Because I feel so strongly that the electors of Broadview-Greenwood should be represented full time in the House of Commons and because I have come to recognize, as those who are in positions of leadership will know only too well, just how awesome are the responsibilities of leading a party, I have decided that I should submit my resignation to you, Madam Speaker, as the member of Parliament for Broadview-Greenwood. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to my electors, the voters of Broadview-Greenwood, who three times have done me the honour of electing me as their Member of Parliament.

It was three and a half years ago that I was first elected to this place, and I am sure those hon. members who have come here through the struggle of partisanship will know and understand what I am saying when I simply say that in a democratic society such as ours I regard it as, perhaps, the greatest honour that could be bestowed on anyone to have been elected to the Parliament of Canada; and I want to thank the people of Broadview-Greenwood for their advice, for their encouragement and for the warmth of their friendship. Whatever party they may or may not have belonged to or supported, I will respect them always, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for having done me the honour of electing me to this place.

I am sure hon. members will understand when I express my gratitude to my staff and particularly to my constituency assistant, Valerie Lawson, who has served me and my predecessor, John Gilbert—who is now a judge in the province of Ontario—with tremendous dignity, distinction and hard work. I think it is important for everyone here to remember that our staffs are our eyes and ears in our constituencies for listening and serving the people, and I want to pay public tribute to them.

I want to thank my colleagues in the New Democratic Party. We have had our differences from time to time. From what I understand and read in the newspapers, occasionally all caucuses have differences of opinion. Even in the party opposite I understand there are differences of opinion. However, I want to say that it has been a pleasure, an honour and a lot of fun to participate with my brothers and sisters in bringing the message of social democracy to the people of Canada through this Parliament.

I want to thank members of other parties. I do not think the public understands sufficiently the necessity and the fact that all of us—I hope—make a distinction between things which are said in the spirit of political partisanship and the friendships and the sense of collegiality we all feel in our common work which is, I suggest, to serve the people of our constituencies, the people of our provinces and the people of Canada.

There are a great many people in all parties I could single out who have given me the gift of friendship, which I regard as perhaps the greatest gift we have. They have given me much good advice—sometimes after I made mistakes rather than before I made them! I particularly want to pay personal tribute, as it were, to those ministers who have responded to my questions, or not responded to my questions, as they saw fit.

I will not take too long, and I hope Your Honour will indulge me, but I was looking over the very first question I asked when I came to this House, and I think it shows the quality of repartee in this institution. The second question I asked was directed to the then minister of finance, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien). In the last part of my question I said: