

### Supply

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Nothing wrong with that if he wants to do something about it, but I suggested to this House before, and I say this to the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) that the \$1 per year which Bill Davis, in his patriotic fervour, is accepting, I venture to say that a year from now he will be overpaid at that.

What about the urgency with which Mr. Davis and his colleague, Mr. Lewis, have been taking this matter? They finally met just before the weekend, an hour and a half over a cup of tea or coffee or whatever was served. What was the purpose of the meeting? To get acquainted. A nice one and a half hour meeting to get acquainted. When is the next meeting going to be held? We do not know, they did not tell us. That is the type of urgency displayed by this Government and the U.S. administration, such that they are devoting another year of study, a moratorium and no action.

It is not just members of this Party who are critical. Congressman Henry Waxman of the United States calls it "just another delaying tactic". The action of the American administration and of our Government has been criticized by the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the National Clean Air Coalition, the Canadian Acid Rain Coalition, but you will be comforted to know that the acid rain envoys have finally met to become acquainted. That is the only action we got.

What we should be proposing from this side of the border is a clean air treaty binding on the U.S. and Canada, just as the Boundary Waters Treaty has helped us clean up the Great Lakes. We should have the same monitoring system and the same power of enforcement. We should have the same commitment of the Governments and the same dedication these two countries together since 1904 have devoted to the Great Lakes. With a lot of effort over the last 10 or 15 years, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and Lake Michigan have been cleaned up. There are salmon again in Lake Michigan and Lake Ontario. In the same way when the two countries get together they can do something about the air. Just as important as the water along our international boundary, right up the same St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes system into the Superior-Quetico system, into the Kenora-Rainy River system, all the joint waters we share, equally important is the air we breathe crossing that border in both directions. The prevailing winds are now dumping refuse and poison on our forests and our lakes. What this Government should really be doing is bringing to Parliament and the committee a clean air treaty which will be signed and binding on both sides of the border, having been legislated in Parliament to cover federal jurisdiction and legislated in the Legislatures to cover areas of provincial jurisdiction. That is what we need.

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

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Members of the Government are smiling and laughing at Canadians who are concerned about this very serious problem. But there is another urgent issue which is not a laughing matter either. There is the disastrous spill of PCBs on the Trans-Canada Highway near Kenora in northern Ontario. Let me say first of all that there

is absolutely no scientific doubt that PCBs are dangerous. They have been found around the world, they are carcinogenic and can cause other health problems. As the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) said, we do not know how long traces of those chemical substances can stay in the system in a sub-viral way until they become lethal years later. We do not know.

We learned last week that as part of the November cuts announced by the Minister of Finance, the Government of Canada cancelled an important study by the National Research Council on the assessment and analysis of PCBs requested by the Government of Ontario. Now, isn't that dandy? In addition, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) pointed out on Friday, the Government has also downgraded the provision of the Department of the Environment dealing with the emergencies in the interprovincial transportation of dangerous goods by 25 per cent, or some \$1 million. Isn't that dandy? The services which could help the Canadian people to be prepared, to anticipate and to forestall a repetition of this kind of tragedy have been cut by the Government of Canada.

What was the initial response by the Minister on hearing of the PCB spill in Kenora? I can cite *Hansard*, and if she denies it we will quote it back to her this afternoon. Was her reaction one of outrage? Was it concern for the individuals and families involved? Was it concern for the safety of transporting dangerous and toxic materials? Was it a promise to ensure that this tragedy would not be repeated? No, it was none of those. The Minister's response was simply a rather pathetic claim that this spill of a toxic substance endangering the health of the people in the area, and possibly anyone else on the Trans-Canada Highway from Montreal to Kenora, was a provincial responsibility.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

• (1600)

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** She implied that it was just a little problem which the provinces could handle. After all, the Minister of the Environment of Ontario had assured everyone that the only ones in danger were roadside rats which might eat the PCBs. He may be on an election trail, but he certainly is not in control of his Ministry. That reply was echoed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) and the Minister of Transport. The Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) was not in the House when I put the question and it was responded to by the Minister of Fisheries. Anyone who says that maybe only a few rats will be involved really does not understand the gravity of the situation.

As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) has said, there is possibly a path of poison stretching from Montreal, through Hudson, Quebec and Hawkesbury, through this capital City of Ottawa, up to Arnprior, Renfrew, Pembroke and North Bay, through Sudbury and the north shore of Lake Superior right to Thunder Bay. We have heard people complaining about the effects of the PCBs such as rashes on children and nausea in adults. There is