

*Government Orders*

Havilland in Toronto, in particular, a real failure of the privatization policies of this government as carried out recently.

• (1220)

We are in trouble because of a government that is unable to win the support of Canadians at large and that has hit rock-bottom levels in popularity. We are in trouble because the Prime Minister is seen as the greatest disaster ever to hit this great nation. We are in trouble because the party in power, having lost the confidence of the people for good, can, from a constitutional point of view, carry on and govern until November of 1993. We are in trouble because of a mutilated VIA Rail, a demoralized postal service, and a frustrated CBC.

We are in some pain and difficulty, to put it mildly, about the uncertainties that surround the free trade agreement that is being discussed with Mexico. We are in trouble because of a continuous crisis in the fisheries in Atlantic Canada. We are in trouble in urban Canada because tens of thousands of refugees are waiting endlessly to learn about their fate in this country.

It is against this background then that, at a time when Canada is obviously facing these difficulties, the government decides to close down Parliament from mid-April to an unspecified date sometime in mid-May perhaps. Are we going to close down for repairs or are we going to close down for restoration? It seems to me that it is more likely we are closing down for sale, judging from the propensity of this government for dismantling public institutions that it has shown over the last six years or its propensity to retreat from governance and to give away federal responsibilities at a drop of the hat, as we have seen through the Meech Lake accord experience.

An adjournment debate should actually have a clear purpose: to the government to justify and explain to Canadians the reasons for adjourning. I ask you to examine the speech by the parliamentary secretary, who was obviously speaking on behalf of the Crown, the ministers, and Cabinet, to judge for yourselves the substance of the speech he gave, and, at the same time, to let Canadians decide on the merits and reasons for adjourning.

You may recall that this session of Parliament started on April 3, 1989, almost two years ago, actually. At that time, the Governor General read his Speech from the

Throne. That speech is an important document for parliamentarians and Canadians because it sets out the agenda, so to speak, for the lifetime of the following session. Therefore, that Speech from the Throne contains a number of promises.

The government might have had a good reason for adjourning if the business it set out to conduct had been completed. Unfortunately, though, that is not the case. There is a great deal in the Speech from the Throne of unkept promises, unfinished business, proposals lost by the way-side, so to speak.

Let me illustrate that by going over some of these unkept promises. To begin with, you will find in the Speech from the Throne a statement that says: "Legislation will also be introduced to ensure an appropriate environmental assessment review process." Here, condensed in a very few words, is a very important concept. It is a promise to give Canadians a law that would protect the environment by way of measuring the impact a project or a policy could have on the environment before

It is a very important initiative, which saw the light of day in the form of Bill C-78. It is so important that, even in *Hansard* of October 16, 1990, the Minister of the Environment said, and I quote: "We have to get Bill C-78 through the House".

Mr. Speaker, that bill has not even come back from committee and has not been examined in committee since Christmas. That bill is going to die, as they say, on the Order paper.

Let me give you another example, to do with water. In the same Speech from the Throne is the following commitment, and I quote:

These initiatives are part of a new environmental agenda, which will also include the commitment to improve the quality of our water through new legislation.

This promise in the Speech from the Throne resurfaced recently in the Green Plan.

So, what do we actually have? We have a report by the Pierce commission, initiated by the Liberal government in 1984 and completed in 1985. We had, in 1987, a booklet entitled *The Federal Water Policy* in which a policy is outlined. Then, in the Speech from the Throne of April 3, 1989, we have a commitment to improve the quality of our water and a commitment in the Green Paper.