

*Supply*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Member for Mississauga West but I have counted five or six questions so far. The Member for Davenport will only have six or seven minutes. I would suggest that the Member not ask too many more.

**Mr. Horner:** I will finish off by saying that I want to know from the Member for Davenport why significant amounts of lead were still being allowed in gasoline in 1984?

**Mr. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for raising these questions. Since his premise was that we all agree on the motion before us, if I understood him, I hope that he will be here on the appropriate day and vote for this motion since he is favour of it.

To answer these very legitimate questions, let me start with lead. It was the Liberal Government in December, 1983 that launched the reduction of lead to bring it down from .76 milligrams per litre at that time to .29 milligrams. I am glad to say that that measure was continued by the present Government to bring it down further. In this business, we must reinforce each other and not be distracted by rhetoric.

As to funding, we provided in 1981 the funds for the modernization of pulp and paper companies. We felt that was one way of reducing the pollution in our water. As it turned out, that program ought to have been done in a more sophisticated manner but nevertheless it was a form of funding that had the environment in mind.

Who brought through this Parliament the Ocean Dumping Control Act? It was a Liberal Government. Who brought to this House the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act? Imagine, the word prevention was in the name of the Act. It was a Liberal Government in the seventies. Who was it that launched in 1970 a Bill for the creation of the Department of the Environment over which the present Minister now presides? It was Prime Minister Trudeau. Who was it who introduced the Clean Air Act which was subsequently incorporated into the Canadian Environment Protection Act last year. The pioneering legislation was the Clean Air Act and it was passed by the Liberal Government through this House. The same can be said about the law on national parks which was passed for the first time by the then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, now the retired Mr. Chrétien, through this House in the late sixties.

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

**Mr. Caccia:** I would not want to be accused of making commercials in the process of answering these questions.

The Hon. Member for Mississauga mentioned car emissions and quite rightly so because we were slow on that. However when the Party of which the Member for Mississauga is a Member came into power in September 1984, we had in that summer started to launch the public hearings that broke the ground for the control policy that came into effect the following year.

Finally, because I do not want to blow too much the Liberal trumpet but this opportunity comes only once in every Parliament, the memorandum of intent on acid rain was signed in August 1980. I don't need to ask you who was in power in Canada at that time. At that time we had President Carter south of the border who was quite receptive and we had very keen public opinion. The Liberal Party was glad to be able to move on that initiative.

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

**Mr. Caccia:** In March 1984 two things happened in Ottawa that should not be erased from the collective memory of all of us. Representatives of nine European nations that came to Ottawa on our invitation to sign a declaration with Canada that would cut SO<sub>2</sub> pollution by 30 per cent by 1993 as a minimum. That was a fine Liberal initiative. This is the last item. It is important to make the point because in the Minister's mind there is this erroneous notion that before 1984, federal-provincial relations were negative.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Caccia:** Before you laugh, it was in March 1984 here in Ottawa that seven provinces and the Government of Canada agreed on a joint action on acid rain and to go it alone. I see the Member for Muskoka is in the House. His memory can reach back to when the then Minister of Environment for Ontario, Mr. Brant, and the other six provincial Ministers, agreed with Canada that even though there was indecision south of the border, we wanted very badly to have the Americans come on board with us. Obviously we were assuming a burden on our own rather than jointly with them. It was our hope that they would as long as Mr. Ruckelshaus was the head of EPA. Once he left in despair at his lack of success in convincing President Reagan to move, then it was the seven provincial Ministers, to their credit and that of Canada, that in March 1980 made that commitment to go it alone and to cut by 50 per cent SO<sub>2</sub> pollution by 1994.