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For example, I look at the proposed Vancouver Island natural gas pipeline. When it is constructed, that will provide an alternative to bringing in the bunker fuel tankers to Vancouver Island, traffic that in itself has potential for hazards. Training of personnel is something that came to light in the American jurisdiction, and we obviously always need to be looking at having properly trained people in charge of our ships, and rules and regulations which would ensure that the types of incidents, the use of alcohol, which should be totally prohibited in those situations, would not occur in British Columbia, or in our Canadian waters.

It has been mentioned several times by other Members that perhaps we should be looking again at the offshore drilling off the coast of British Columbia, and the maintenance of the moratorium. It is my understanding that the Province of British Columbia and Premier Vander Zalm have indicated that they wish to retain that moratorium. In light of some of the recent incidents, that may make very good sense.

Canada's continued opposition to the Arctic natural wildlife refuge, and the proposed drilling in Alaska is something that both our External Affairs Department and Environment Department have been vigorously opposed to because of the concerns, the fragility of the environment in that region, and again the potential for environmental disasters is also something that needs to be looked at.

Finally, the Minister of the Environment briefly talked about the Speech from the Throne yesterday, and the type of commitments to the environment contained in that Speech from the Throne, a commitment that was not new to the Government, a commitment to sustainable development. If we look at the root causes of some of those reasons, it relates to our heavy dependence on fossil fuels, the types of lifestyles that we live, and the fact that in the past we have not looked seriously enough at the alternatives. Some of those alternatives are now coming within the possible horizon of realities, whether it is fusion or fuel cell technology, which perhaps in another generation can be a reality and provide substitutes for fossil fuels so that we will not be as reliant on them, or not be as much at risk from the types of accidents that have occurred most recently.

That is the commitment that this Government has made. It has established a centre in Winnipeg, the ongoing programs of our Minister of Environment to encourage Canadians to use environmentally safe products, and a whole variety of measures that we will be undertaking in the future. The Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett), rather than criticising the efforts of the Government, should be applauding our Minister of Environment, a Minister who has stood up for the environment both here in Canada and internationally.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: The Hon. Member should also applaud the record of the Prime Minister who received an award recently in The Hague, and I know that he will soon be receiving international awards for the commitment to the environment and the leadership role that this country has taken.

That is the type of leadership and commitment which I can assure the members of the House and Canadians who are sharing this evening with us will be continued, a commitment not only from the Minister of the Environment, but from all Departments, a greater sensitivity to environmental impacts of all decisions of government, whether it is in my own Department of National Defence, or in my colleague's Department of Transport. Throughout the Government every effort will be made to prevent the types of incidents which have occurred in the last few months, for example, the Valdez oil crisis, and build up and improve our capability to deal with incidents of this nature, a capability of which I am very proud.

We have done perhaps better than any other nation in the world at this point, but it is not yet at the level which I think we will probably need in the future just to ensure that level of comfort. In my own view prevention is worth a pound of cure. That will be the emphasis of this Government, this Department, and this Minister.

Our speeches have been cut back in the second part, and we will not have an opportunity to go into some of the details in terms of fisheries and wildlife that I know others will talk to a little later.

In conclusion I would like to say that the incident in Alaska is a tragic incident. We know that the impact on the people in that area, and the impact on the wildlife is extremely unhappy. I have worried when I see school children, as we had on the West Coast, with otters or sea birds that have been impacted by this oil spill, or perhaps have been killed by it.