S. O. 31

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in central and Atlantic Canada, Canadians re-elected Liberals to the House of Commons. Our thanks and appreciation go to the people of Beauséjour and York North for their confidence and support.

Congratulations to our leader, the hon. Jean Chrétien, and Maurizio Bevilacqua for their great electoral victories. In both ridings, despite the multitude of candidates, the Liberals won with more than 51 per cent of the vote.

There are many members of this House who would have liked to receive that much of a vote in their own ridings in the last federal election.

Aboriginal people, westerners and northerners welcome back their long-time friend, Jean Chrétien.

From north to south, and east to west, the Liberals will continue to fight for Canada and the people of this great land.

[Editor's Note: Member spoke in Inuktitut.]

Jean and Maurizio, well done. The best is yet to come.

[Translation]

GREEN PLAN

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, here are some of the measures proposed in the Green Plan. The government will reinforce existing partnerships and create new ones with aboriginal people and non-governmental organizations, including environmental groups. The same will apply to Canadian industry. Individual initiative will be encouraged, and funding for the Environmental Partners Program will be increased. The Environmental Choice Program and National Environment Week will also be maintained and reinforced. A national youth advisory committee on the environment and development will be established.

Furthermore, a Canadian youth secretariat on environment and development will prepare young Canadians and other young people for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992. To support scientific research, a five-year action plan on environmental sciences and technology will be established. And Mr. Speaker, this is only the beginning. Congratulations!

[English]

BEAUSÉJOUR AND YORK NORTH BY-ELECTIONS

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, two by-elections, two exhilarating victories for the Liberals in Canada: Jean Chrétien in Beauséjour and Maurizio Bevilacqua in York North.

The NDP's "Rae" of hope faded in Ontario last night with the Liberal landslide victory over the NDP in York North. Liberals are not only alive, but thriving.

Is the Conservatives' showing at the polls in Ontario an omen? Are they about to tie their rate of popularity to the rate of the GST? The by-election proved that the only things less popular with Canadians than the GST are Tories.

Liberals won both by-elections with over 50 per cent of voter support. This is the trend of the future. There is hope for Canada.

CANADA'S GREEN PLAN

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment's green plan, tabled in the House of Commons this morning, is little more than a feeble attempt at dealing with critical environmental issues facing Canadians today.

Despite the fact that the green plan is vague and promises business as usual for the immediate future, the essence of the plan hinges on adequate environmental assessment legislation. That legislation, Bill C-78, is currently in a House legislative committee where, to date, every single witness has criticized the government's bill, calling it inadequate and fundamentally flawed. There are plenty of reasons why Bill C-78 should be withdrawn and redrafted into a strong and enforceable environmental assessment bill.

• (1410)

None is more important than the fact that the green plan now relies on it for environmental protection. What we have here is an environmental plan that rests firmly