

Supply

Devine in his wisdom—and I say that with lots of sarcasm, Mr. Speaker—has decided to proceed?

The federal government has a responsibility to the taxpayers, not just in collecting the taxes, but making sure that that money is spent wisely. If that money has been taken on a supposed fraudulent basis, it should be taken back and made sure that it goes back into the government coffers. We hear lots of rhetoric on the other side of the House about the concern of the deficit. If the government is so concerned about the deficit, get that \$8 million back. It would go some degree in being able to protect ordinary Canadian taxpayers from the abuses of government.

We have an environmental review process that is shot full of holes. We have a tax system that is biased against ordinary Canadian families. They are the ones who are having to pay for this process that is fundamentally flawed. We can do better. We can do a whole lot better. I know that in my party we intend to do better when we become government the next time around because this government is so—

Ms. Langan: Corrupt.

Ms. Hunter: I am not going to suggest the word that my colleague used—I am sure it has been picked up in *Hansard*—because I know it is unparliamentary. Their ideas are fatally flawed. They have no vision about the kind of direction we should be going on the environment.

When we talk about the test of sustainability, it is not out of any airy fairy idea that the economy is somehow divorced from the environment. No, Mr. Speaker. What we have to do is integrate the environment and the economy.

We know that people are hurting. We know that people in Saskatchewan want jobs. We understand that. But those jobs in Saskatchewan and those jobs in Hibernia cannot be given at any price, especially not the environmental price. It is not just this generation that pays the cost, it is future generations.

The federal government has a responsibility to provide leadership. That is what is lacking, federal government leadership on environmental assessment. We seem to be afraid of that. We seem to think that we are going to be

putting more bureaucratic markers in the way of development. That is not the intention of real environmental assessment. It is to show the integration of the environment and the economy are not two, but one. We, the taxpayers of Canada, are the economy. Where and how we live is the environment.

I would like to conclude by saying that the motion before the House today on the Rafferty-Alameda project is just one example of the flawed process of environmental assessment. I know in the coming days we will have more opportunity to debate the Environmental Assessment Review Process. I caution this House that we no longer have the time or the resources to make a mess of this. We have a responsibility as federal politicians to create an Environmental Assessment Review Process that integrates the environment and the economy, that shows people that the projects that federal tax dollars provide are sustainable, both economically and environmentally.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, it is almost six o'clock but I have a brief comment.

The hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands made a statement which I think deserves more comment but, unfortunately, we do not have enough time. She said that jobs should not come at any price. I think this is at the crux of the environmental debate.

Jobs have been used as an argument for the need for this project to continue, as well as water. Jobs are used in British Columbia to justify the logging of old forests and various other forests that environmentalists want to protect. The thing that comes to my mind on this is that in the end we have to come to a different way of regarding job creation in this country and, for that matter, in the world. Not everything that creates jobs is necessarily good.

If I could revert to my other vocation, the church, I recall that one of the complaints against St. Paul by the Romans was that he was putting the idol makers out of business. There was a great job creation industry in Rome making graven images. One of the complaints against St. Paul was that he was putting the makers of graven images out of business. The whole Christian church did not pack it up at that point and say: "Oh, well, we do not want to put these people out of work making