

Supply

To do so, we as decision-makers must also experience this paradigm shift in thinking that our astronauts first experienced from outer space.

Our hope for the future is conditional on decisive action now, in fact yesterday, to begin managing our environmental resources, to ensure sustainable economic growth and human survival.

Our commitment must be defined in a new conceptual framework of a world that is rapidly approaching its limits to growth. Our policies must reflect the economic and environmental limitations which human society must learn to live with if it ever hopes to see the 22nd century.

To tackle this new reality we cannot afford to embrace any outmoded ideology, nor can we afford to pasture any sacred cows. We have to throw out old ideas and biases and look for solutions that work.

The necessity for open-mindedness and political flexibility has never been greater; the problems never more daunting, and the consequence of failure never more severe.

The challenge is before the House today. Do we have the courage to accept it?

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to take part in today's debate on the motion put forward by the New Democratic Party of Canada.

I especially welcome the opportunity to discuss before the House the environmental commitments made by the Government and to which the Speech from the Throne gives an importance never seen under any previous government.

[*English*]

Hon. Members will know that the environment is one of the five areas of priority for this session of Parliament, as stated in the Speech from the Throne. The commitment of the Government as laid out in the Throne Speech will be honoured.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we are entering a new era. Basic changes are needed in the way we treat our precious environmental heritage. Canadians have a special responsibility to their environment. Our country, as vast as a continent, is

the second largest in the world. That shows the magnitude of our responsibility as trustees and keepers of one of the world's natural jewels.

Canadians deserve the respect of the international community for having made the environment a national priority.

It is not by chance that leaders of other countries have praised our Prime Minister for his commitment to ensure the viability of the environment. It is not by chance, Mr. Speaker, that our Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, will receive this week from Mrs. Gro Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway and world champion of the environment cause, a special prize in recognition of what he has done for the environment.

These tributes and such prizes are rightly for the Canadian people and their Prime Minister in recognition of the special attention and care they have given to seeking and implementing environmental solutions. As a Government, we want to realize the environmental aspirations of the men and women whom we have the honour to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention here a particular initiative of the voters in Argenteuil—Papineau, whom I have the honour to represent. Next Monday, I will have the pleasure to inaugurate the environmental training centre located, Mr. Speaker, in a magnificent heritage house formerly owned by the federal Government on expropriated land in Sainte-Scholastique-de-Mirabel. This centre has been renovated according to the Québec Department of Cultural Affairs, in a truly magnificent setting, Mr. Speaker. I invite you to come and have a look around.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Québec, through the Department of Education— Also, I would like to congratulate my provincial counterpart, Mr. Ryan, for financial assistance, because he is Minister of Education in Québec. The federal Government, of course, invested a lot of money and it is the first environmental training centre, Mr. Speaker, sponsored by the very dynamic St. Jerome CEGEP. Thanks to our Government's support, they were able to set up this training centre that is unique in Québec.

So, Mr. Speaker, you will understand that I take no little pride in representing them because they are leaders in this field.