

Oral Questions

should look at previous programs such as the CHIP program and what a disaster the former Government inflicted upon many householders. Much money had to be spent to get out of some of those insulation programs. If the whole UFFI story is the way the Liberals do conservation, it does not work. It is much better to do research and development and have it transferred directly to industry as we have done.

IMPACT OF ELIMINATION OF PROGRAMS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I put these questions to the Minister of Finance who is crippling environmental protection with his Budget cuts. Since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources wishes to engage me this afternoon, I will tell him that much as I have tried, I fail to be impressed with an award given to the Prime Minister in Washington by the President of U.S. Steel who is against a reduction in acid rain. That may impress the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but somehow, his attitude is not contagious on this side of the House.

I am interrupting the coaching of the Minister of Finance here. If the rhetoric of the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and now the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources could clean up the environment, we would live in a very pure and clean world, but that is not what is happening. The Government's promises on the environment stretch from here in the House of Commons up to the ozone layer and back, but they do not mean a thing to the people of Canada.

Since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources wishes to reply, I would ask him how the elimination of renewable energy programs will help our environment. We would be very interested in that. While I am at it, since he is responding for the Minister of the Environment, will he explain to us how the redecoration of the office of his colleague, the Minister of the Environment, will help produce energy efficient offices in Canada?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the right. hon. gentleman should take a look at what the Government has done. There have been acid rain agreements. Today the Prime Minister is having discussions with President Bush. That agenda has been moved forward.

About the only thing I saw from the former Government on acid rain was that the former Minister of the Environment who was removed from his post by the right hon. gentleman has faithfully worn a "stop acid rain" lapel button. That has been the extent of their acid rain program, lapel buttons. There is a—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: I am glad I finally got their attention. There is the acid rain agreement. There were five new national parks created by the Government in its first mandate. This has been endorsed very strongly by Canadians. There was the international agreement on the ozone layer. Yes, the Government's policy has gone all the way to the ozone layer. Too bad the right hon. gentleman's policy is still in the flat earth society. The right hon. gentleman can say what he wants, but there has been—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS

TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR REACTOR THROUGH STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of the Environment. We know that the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Environment have hastened to Washington to accept a phoney award from a phoney group.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: I would ask the Acting Minister if, while they are in Washington, they could do something specific to help the Canadian environment. I am referring to a letter I sent to the Prime Minister yesterday about the fact that next Monday, the American Navy will begin moving a nuclear submarine reactor through the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a very turbulent strait, only 55 kilometres from Victoria. The Minister should know that the U.S. Navy's own environmental impact study admits that there is a slight possibility of an accident which would be devastating to the West Coast of Canada. Will the Prime Minister demand that the President of the United States cancel Monday's barge shipment?