

Private Members' Business

the government is recognizing the need for educational programs in the implementation of their objectives.

This will be further supported by the development of training courses for managers and officers making environmentally related decisions in the government.

The office of environmental stewardship will also be responsible for monitoring, implementation of code and objectives and reporting on the progress that has been made. Now I want to get that across to the member in particular because in fact the function that she assesses to her bill, what she is asking for the government is agreeing to and it is setting up the environmental stewardship office and committing to a process of reporting, of monitoring, implementation of objectives and reporting on the progress being made. So, undoubtedly, she will take great pleasure in the fact that this is being accomplished.

Common barriers to achieving progress can be identified by the office and resolved. Similarly, where there are opportunities for efficiency from joint action, these can be organized because we want to be concerned about waste, about inefficiencies and we want this co-ordinated role and approach going forward to garner whatever savings we can.

• (1720)

Mr. Speaker, I see that you are giving me the time signal but this is an important government program that is being announced here today and it is in fact being announced in response to the work of this member and other members in the House of Commons who have recognized the need for auditing and the government is responding accordingly. We appreciate her initiative and look forward to it moving forward.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment my colleague from Ottawa West for putting forward this motion. Basically, what my colleague is putting forward is the fact that the Government of Canada put a green filter on every aspect of its operations. In other words, whether this be government purchases, government operations, that ultimately would lead to the relationship that government has in terms of its client list. We have a relationship, for example, in the Department of Supply and Services with people that supply the government. I think that we could

ultimately lead to putting standards forward to the private sector.

What I think is quite significant about this motion is if the government uses all of its resources, as my colleague from Ottawa West said, the Government of Canada is really the largest company in Canada, if we can use that analogy. We are talking here of literally thousands of locations of government offices and buildings across the country: all of our national defence bases, all of our airports across Canada, those that have yet to be privatized.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, if we put a green filter on every one of those units? I believe that not only would this send a signal to the rest of our community in changing their lifestyle but I see the potential here for a mammoth job creation program, a job creation program for turning this country green for our youth, for our seniors. Just think of the number of audit functions that would happen in the process of converting government. Think of the number of manufacturing opportunities just in the area related to water, the amount of water that we waste in government buildings where we have lavatories, where the systems are working on a continual basis in terms of water flow. I mean there is technology today that can change that easily, instantly and at no cost and our savings would be mammoth.

I do not really see how anyone in this House could possibly oppose this motion. We have not been really leading this environmental debate in this House. We have been pushed into moving on this debate mostly by our constituents. I think it would be a tremendous example of getting into the lead again on this issue. By using all of these resources and putting in the audit function, putting forward a program and process of accountability, obviously those people who would not participate in this would be the odd one out. Very few men or women want to be the odd ones out when it comes to the environment today.

We also want to talk about the mammoth amount of conservation. My colleague from Ottawa West talked about deficit and debt. There would be tremendous savings for the deficit if we had a very progressive attitude in terms of converting to a green filter in government institutions and government operations.