

Oral Questions

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday the minister said that his green plan represents fresh new money. Yet this government has cut funding to alternative energy by approximately 90 per cent since 1984.

How can the minister stand there and say that this is new money? How much money will be spent on alternative energy under the green plan? More specifically, how much will be spent in my province of Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Andre: I'll spend the old money.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure my colleague the \$3 billion that was announced yesterday within the framework of the green plan is all new money. It is money that was committed by cabinet. It is money that is there for the environment over the next five years and it is money that is designated to fulfil 120 recommendations that are put forth in the green plan.

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment concerning the green plan. As the minister knows, one of the environmental time bombs waiting to go off is the sunken oil barge, *Irving Whale*.

In 1970, the *Irving Whale* with its cargo of 4,200 tonnes of bunker-C oil sank off the northwest coast of Prince Edward Island and has been slowly leaking ever since.

Recently, oil similar to that of the *Irving Whale* washed up on the north shore of P.E.I. I and the fishermen of my riding want to know when the federal government will remove the *Irving Whale* or its contents, and why isn't there money in the green plan to diffuse environmental time bombs like the *Irving Whale*?

An hon. member: They had a long time to do it.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to say that I am concerned about all these issues as much as my hon. colleague is.

I cannot give him a precise answer to the questions that he has just raised. I would like to take it under advisement for a day or so in order to get the exact information.

We have a section of the green plan which deals exactly with emergency preparedness. I must say that is an area that was neglected over the last decade.

The government is now taking action to make sure that we have the emergency measures in place to respond to issues like the one my hon. colleague has just raised.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. The four western provinces stand to lose the RCMP through the government's insistence on transferring more policing costs to the provinces and the municipalities.

The RCMP is one of the strong symbols of Canada and it is truly a force for national unity. Yet the four western provinces may be forced to establish their own police forces if the federal government does not back off. We have already lost too many of our national institutions and this haemorrhaging must stop.

Will the Solicitor General reconsider the federal government's proposal to ensure that the Mounties are kept in the west?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that everybody here knows that the exercise we are going through right now is to make sure that the RCMP does remain in the west. We are discussing the cost-sharing that was established 10 years ago. Obviously, I will continue to discuss those issues with the representatives of the provinces and the territories.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same minister. I do not think I have to tell this minister that the RCMP is one of the best police forces in the world. Surely the minister must know that if the western provinces lose the Mount-