

The Budget—Mr. Penner

and he is us." Pogo, the comic strip hero, originally uttered those words, but they were recently used by a spokesman in the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

• (5:00 p.m.)

Thoughtful observers have suggested that the fully sovereign nation is incapable of dealing with the poisoning of the environment. In fact, when sovereign states engage in open hostility they contribute significantly to global spoilage and destruction. Humanity needs a world order. The effective management of the planet, therefore, whether we are talking about the need to prevent war, or the need to prevent pollution, undoubtedly requires a world government. Unfortunately, we will probably exhaust ourselves in speculation over the difficulty of achieving such a government.

The first law of ecology is that everything is connected to everything else. To conclude my brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, I will refer to a fable written by Dr. Paul Barclay-Estrup, Assistant Professor of Biology at Lakehead University in the city of Thunder Bay. Dr. Barclay-Estrup writes of three lovely islands owned by a man with three sons, each of whom inherited one island. The first son had scientific training with a great respect for proven facts and logical concepts. He was known as Ecologist John. The second son, known as Businessman Bert, was a practical fellow, successful in finance and industry. He was unshakably conservative, distrusting new theories and holding to the firm belief that More and Bigger, must always be Better. The third son, James, was a missionary, highly moral with a profound respect for life. He believed that man should interfere as little as possible with the workings of nature. To make the story more interesting, the three sons shared a genuine affection for goats.

After 35 years tending their respective islands, these were the results: Ecologist John's island retained the fresh beauty of its flowers, beaches, meadows, trees and clear lakes. The herd of goats, incidentally, was strictly limited to 500. On Businessman Bert's island, there were over 50,000 goats, all living in complete conformity in an enormous sky scraper. They were happy and healthy as long as they were given their daily supply of "happy pills". On the third island, belonging to Missionary James, the passing of 35 years had left a herd of only 200 goats, all stunted and diseased. They lived in an environment of eroded slopes and mud-filled valleys. They

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suffered always from malnutrition and starvation, while the original beauty of the island was destroyed forever.

Each son had done what he thought best and right. Today's narrow approach to natural science ecology, and to the economics of use of our natural resources, cannot begin to meet the need for intelligent recognition of consequences and consideration of alternatives. There is the utmost urgency to establish a national environmental awareness and a sound sociological attitude toward the total environment. We need a new cultural orientation to man's interdependence with his environment, a positive program to develop an attitude of responsibility.

It was said recently in Ottawa by the president of a prominent corporation:

We can never tamper with the environment without triggering off consequences. Even with the most highly developed social conscience, even with the most careful exploration and testing, it will never be possible to predict or anticipate all of the possible consequences of introducing a change into our environment. We have yet to learn to be realistic about this. Our society must stop wasting its energy on recrimination and the search for scapegoats and bend all of its efforts in constructive directions.

Industry can act responsibly in its tampering with the environment—no one doubts that—but the task of government is to enact that kind of legislation which will help to ensure that good corporate citizenship is the rule rather than the exception.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, in taking part in this debate at a time when our country is faced with such a high rate of unemployment, the highest taxes in our history, I am sure it would be of small consolation to the thousands of unemployed for me to point out that the first indication that such a high rate of unemployment may have been in the offing was and has been strenuously objected to by the official opposition. I am referring, of course, to a period when the then minister of finance and the present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) said that this government was prepared to put some slack into the economy to fight inflation.

This practice appears to have become a way of life with this government, Mr. Speaker. At the present time they are even telling the farmers not to grow wheat. I can assure them that this policy, coupled with the reduction in wheat sales, has certainly brought the western economy to a standstill. I am sure all