

*Supply*

have very much pride in the way that we have handled collisions and spills over the last number of months. We only need to look at the Vancouver Island situation, or the fact that while the oil spill from the *Exxon Valdez* did not come into Canadian waters, we were certainly not prepared for it if it did.

That being the case, can the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) guarantee to the House and to Canadians that the barge that is currently moving along the coast of British Columbia will not be involved in an accident? Can he guarantee Canadians that any accident involving spent radioactive waste would not forever finish off the potential for tourist development off the West Coast of British Columbia, as well as the potential for fishery development? I do not think that he can. That is why I hope that, as well as going down to give the Prime Minister some moral support when he accepts an award from a group that has no business calling itself an environmental group, he demands of the Government of the United States that the barge not be moved, and that a cease and desist order be put on the moving of that barge unless and until we can get absolute assurances that the spent fuel will be removed or until we have a chance to study the situation further.

The Minister will know that the first of 12 barges carrying nuclear reactors began moving along the Pacific Coast on Monday of this week. The second barge begins moving on Friday. Given that I contacted the Prime Minister myself on this issue yesterday by way of hand-delivered letter as well as fax, although his embassy seemed to close rather early, is the Minister prepared to demand of the American Government that no barge carrying radioactive waste be moved along the coast of British Columbia? These barges will be travelling within 55 kilometres of Victoria. Given the level of traffic along the British Columbia coast, I do not think it is safe to suggest that there will not be a mishap. A plan should be in place, and the barge should be accompanied by Canadian vessels. The whole operation should be put on hold until Canadians have had a chance to examine the movement of a barge that has the potential for wreaking radioactive disaster on the west coast of British Columbia.

I know that my colleague is heading off to Washington today. I am sure that he has already received a copy of my letter that I sent yesterday to the Prime Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. If he is serious about his work, he will be raising this with the President of the United States today and putting a halt on the shipment of the second barge along the coast of British Columbia.

I believe, and Canadians believe, that the environment should be the number one priority of the Government. The record of the Government has been characterized by cut-backs and by lack of force even to implement its own regulations. The pulp and paper situation is an absolute disgrace. The law is there. A new law is not needed. Let us use the law already at our disposal. If we continue to see a Minister who seems happier about accepting awards from international polluters, and a Minister who is more interested in getting on with the Rafferty-Alameda project than he is about putting together an independent environmental assessment, then he is fast going to lose credibility within the environmental community, but more important within the community at large.

[*Translation*]

I believe Canadians are ready to make sacrifices for the environment, just as they are ready to make fiscal sacrifices. But all we ask is that the sacrifices be fair and give results.

Even if Canadians are to make sacrifices!

[*English*]

The Minister has stated that Canadians should be contributing. We should be, and we will. If that is the case, I would also like the Minister to take up the challenge to change the tax laws of the Government in order that more environmental groups will have access to non-partisan funding by way of charitable donations. That would be a step in the right direction, and something that the Government has categorically refused to accord to a number of environmental organizations because it considers them to be closet politicians. That is an area of action in which the Minister should be involved. That is an area in which the Minister should be involved. I encourage him to go to Washington to get the ear of the Prime Minister and the President of the United States to, among other things, stop the shipment of this nuclear reactor across the Juan de Fuca Strait and make sure he puts his money where his mouth is.