

Supply

damage in Canada, and the solution is in Canada-U.S. relations in order to remove what is becoming a common environmental threat. To remove that common environmental threat I submit to you we do not need further research. We do not need another five years waiting for something to happen that has not yet been discovered. We know the damage is there every day.

No matter how many times the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) engages in mutual backslapping with President Reagan the U.S. Government will not move. It will not take action, but it will take action the moment it recognizes and understands that there is economic damage. Until they realize and come to grips with the fact that the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of cleaning up, we will be facing this stark reality, the solution of which will have nothing to do with special relationships, Shamrock summits and the like.

What is so distressing to the Canadian public and to us here in the Opposition is to realize that the Prime Minister failed to make, when he was in Washington, the economic case for Canada. He failed also to make the economic case for the United States. He failed because he, like the envoys that he agreed to appoint, does not understand the importance of pointing to the economic loss that is being incurred and will be incurred as a result of the acid rain damage in the forest industry, in agriculture, in tourism, in fishing and to building and structures across the land.

As you know, we in Canada are increasingly looking upon the environment as an element within which the economy functions. We do not see the environment as an option to the economy, but we see the environment and the economy as one unit; an economy that can only grow well and function well in the long term provided that the environment within which it functions is properly cared for.

At the two summits the Prime Minister did not protect the interests of Canada by way of a subservient attitude, by way of being afraid of saying things as they are, by not pointing out that it is unacceptable to continue to have dumped upon us millions of tonnes of sulphur every year, by not pointing out that the decent responsible behaviour in the international family of nations dictates this practice to be stopped, whether it is between Canada and the United States, the United States and Mexico, Scandinavia and the U.K., or Czechoslovakia and the western Republic of Germany.

The Prime Minister brought the situation upon himself when he suggested or agreed to appoint the special envoys without realizing that they might end up recommending something that is against Canada's interest, namely, more research, as it turned out in the end.

Once the report was published in early January the Prime Minister did not have enough wisdom or sense to distance himself from the envoys' recommendation. Instead, he embraced the recommendations, thus, I submit to you, taking Canada back to the time preceding the Memorandum of Intent of August, 1980, where we find ourselves nowadays.

The Prime Minister has not achieved a victory. In actual fact he has played into the hands of President Reagan. Having left in Ottawa both the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), who could have given him good advice, I submit, he bought the argument in Washington that the solution lies in waiting for the polluting industries to come forward and make the first move as recommended on page 29 of the envoys' report. Even had the Prime Minister mustered enough courage at that time to remind President Reagan of what he said in this Parliament on March 11, 1981, it would have been too late for the Prime Minister. President Reagan said, on March 11, 1981, as reported at page 8155 of *Hansard*:

● (1130)

We want to continue to work co-operatively to understand and control the air and water pollution that respects no borders.

How ineffective can one be in handling Canada's public interests in Washington with respect to acid rain? He had no position to put forward to the President based on the staggering economic damage caused to Canada and the United States as a result of inaction. He was left with a consolation prize of five years of commercial demonstration projects, if and when industry is willing to come forward. What a sham.

The Prime Minister did not have the guts to make a strong case for Canada on acid rain. The result is that now Canadians, every day for the next five years, must sit and wait while these commercial demonstration proposals by the polluting industries may or may not see the light of day, depending on whether the polluting industries are prepared to put money on the table. That is the position we are in.

While we wait for the coal-burning electric utilities to decide on whether or not to spend their money—and they have already indicated they have no intention to do so—our forests, lakes, buildings and monuments, our health and the interest of farmers will continue to be subjected to the corroding rain and we will suffer increasing economic damage. That Shamrock Summit was a sham.

Furthermore, along with the extravagant claims that the Prime Minister made in Washington last week, he raised the expectations of Canadians almost to the sky, creating false impressions. Only the years ahead will gradually, but inevitably, reveal the naked truth that in reality, not only with matters concerning acid rain, the emperor has no clothes. We will not benefit by one ounce of sulphur reduction in acid rain coming across the border.

The Prime Minister has pulled the rug from under Senator John Kerry and other American Senators and Congressmen who are presenting acid rain Bills. In the case of Senator Kerry, his Bill aims at reducing sulphur by 12 million tonnes a year, but as a result of the Prime Minister throwing his weight behind the Reagan research plan he is helping to kill any possibility that Congress might have of reducing emissions by way of senatorial or congressional Bills. In doing so, the Prime Minister has regrettably been led down a blind alley.