

*Supply*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary also on the same point of order.

**Mr. Gurbini:** Mr. Speaker, what I specifically understood and agreed to in giving unanimous consent was for the Hon. Minister to finish his response to that statement. I think other Members need an opportunity to speak on this important subject.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Let me thank all Members for their generous contributions, but my understanding was to the effect that the Minister be permitted to finish his answer.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, you were absolutely correct, but I can tell by the Parliamentary Secretary's response that there is no sense in my asking the House for unanimous consent to allow the Minister to be questioned. I was going to say to the House Leader of the New Democratic Party that he has a tendency recently of giving speeches as he walks through the door. It is extremely difficult for the translation people, the camera crews and the microphones to pick up what the Hon. Member is saying, but you will notice how much respect he has in the House; everybody listens even when he speaks in the corridor, even the Speaker.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) says that unless there is a price tag on it it is not effective as far as the New Democratic Party is concerned. After the record of this Government I would say that if it does have a price tag on it their philosophy is it is not necessary.

One only has to go back to the actions of this Government since they took power. On the subject of toxic wastes and on the subject of the effects that chemicals have on the environment there were cuts. We saw this incredible decision made by the Government of Canada, by the Department of the Environment, for which this Minister is now responsible. To my knowledge all of the studies that were done affecting wildlife and the effect that toxic chemicals have on wildlife were cancelled, from British Columbia right to Newfoundland. The Centre of Toxicology was also cancelled. We saw the study in British Columbia on the shore birds cancelled. Some people might say it is not very important to study how shore birds are reacting to certain elements in this environment. Then it went across the Prairies and cancelled the study on the effects of herbicides on the reproduction of ducks. Some people may say that this is not a very important study.

• (1500)

The Government then came to Ontario and cancelled the study on herring gull eggs and the effect that toxic chemicals along the shores of the Great Lakes were having on those birds. Some people may say that that study is not very important.

The Government went on to eastern Canada and laid off people associated with the study on the effect of insecticides and some herbicides on birds in Atlantic Canada as a result of

aerial spraying. The results of that study would apply right across the country because chemical spraying on forests kills food for the birds. As a result of those studies, scientists were discovering that the very chemicals used to kill the insects that were the food for birds were actually killing the birds as well. Given that record, how can the Minister of the Environment stand up and say the Government has been doing a wonderful job since it came to power?

The National Research Council has had a number of projects cancelled. For example, there is the study on the effects of acid precipitation and toxic waste dumps on the quality of ground water in Canada. An updated scientific analysis of the key issues in the assessment of polychlorinated biphenyls that was requested by the Government of Ontario was cancelled. Some may say that that is not very important, but the fact is that polychlorinated biphenyls were originally used in Canada as a coolant in electrical transformers. They were outlawed in this country because PCBs were a toxic material that could have very serious effects on humans. The fact is that, unlike the United States, we have no way of getting rid of our polychlorinated biphenyls. The power corporations, the electrical companies, telephone companies and the provincial governments put them in casks and stored them in vacant mines and old buildings across the country. There is very little control or monitoring.

An examination of viruses in water and their impact on human health was cancelled. That study was requested by the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Canadian Public Health Association. The study of viral infections of fish and their impact on fisheries in Canada, requested by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, was cancelled by the Government since it came to power. The Minister talks in glowing terms about what the new Government of Canada has done in the area of toxic wastes, the use of chemicals and their storage. Is it any wonder that people who are knowledgeable of the facts ask what the Minister is talking about?

The Minister was very critical of the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), the Minister of the Environment under the previous Government. I recently read a transcript of a meeting that was held with the former Minister of the Environment and some environmentalists and scientists. It dealt with an interesting major development in your province, Mr. Speaker, and in fact, perhaps in your riding or close to it. They were talking about a biotechnological orientation national fermentation complex which would produce *Bacillus thuringiensis* from a mixture of potatoes, which they would get from the Chicoutimi region or elsewhere, and fish-meal that they would get from the Gaspé or elsewhere.

The reason I raised this subject is that today in Newfoundland, for example, chemical aerial spraying is probably taking place to kill either the balsam woolly aphid or the hemlock looper. The chemical being used is fenithrothion. According to the studies I have seen, fenithrothion is one of the most illogical chemicals to be used in aerial spraying over a large area. The studies conducted by the National Research Council