

Government Orders

ment committee talking about carbon taxes, energy taxes and all kinds of incentives and disincentives toward sustainable development.

I just believe that he is trying as usual for a silver bullet that is not going to fix the environment.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The period for questions and comments is now over. Resuming debate.

Mr. Blaikie: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): On a point of order, the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona.

Mr. Blaikie: Madam Speaker, the reason the member for Rosedale did not rise to say anything in response is because the member who rose allegedly on a question or comment having to do with what the member for Rosedale said spent the entire time talking about what the member for Skeena said, who is not the member who had the floor.

I remind Madam Speaker that the interpretation given to the question and comment procedure was that whenever there was a person or a member rising of a party other than the party of the speaker who was speaking prior to the question and comment period, that that person should be recognized, rather than a member of the speaker's own party, which was not observed in this case.

It is on this point of order that I want to say that I regret that I did not have the opportunity to point out to the member for Rosedale that the book he quoted, *Endangered Spaces*, has a whole chapter devoted to what Parliament did with respect to South Moresby, the kind of thing that he has prevented happening here today.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I would like to say one thing to the hon. member. There was one member of each party recognized in that round of questions and comments. He might remember as well that his colleague, the hon. member for Skeena, who was the first one to be recognized after the speech of the hon. member for Rosedale, had an intervention that lasted close to six minutes of the ten minutes, so there were three short interventions from one member for each party. I think that this was as fair as could be.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I am happy to rise here today in support of this

motion. I would like to remind the House and the people of Canada what the motion is all about because it seems to me that we have spent so much time on the process of this House today that the people of Canada must wonder what we are doing here.

The opposition motion proposed by the member for Skeena reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should move to complete the national park system (land and marine) by the year 2000 and should implement the recommendation of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Report) that Canada protect at least 12 per cent of land and marine zones.

What has absolutely boggled my mind today is the fact that for the last year this House has been working almost unanimously on this issue called the environment. The Minister of the Environment I think has done a good job in working with all members of this House to try and make sure that the objectives which we all share are met. I naturally want to cite one very specific example that happened in my riding last September, Our World, the summit on the environment where we had over 40,000 people talk about all issues related to the environment. It was a week long event.

I also want to remind the House that not only did the minister speak but also the member for Fredericton—York—Sunbury came and spoke. Everyone was invited. All parties participated and it was a great success. I do not remember at that time one speaker not referring to the Brundtland Commission as kind of the international guideline. The Prime Minister has stated repeatedly that the Brundtland Commission is the international guideline.

What concerns me about today's debate is that this will be the first government in the world to vote against the Brundtland Commission Report. I think that is a dangerous precedent because if there is one system related to the environment that we are all proud of as Canadians, it is our national parks and wildlife system. No one here is stating that the system is perfect but it is the one area where we can keep the momentum going. It is the one area where we have got a leg up not only in terms of our national pride but our international pride. When people think of Canada they do not think of our smoggy cities, they think about our parks and our rivers and our lakes and our mountains.