

Chemicals Ltd., company which is polluting the Niagara River from the United States side, should be proof of that.

The Minister, as usual, is reading her mail, but she is not listening or responding in any concrete fashion. This morning in debate the Minister had some unkind things to say about this Party and about the New Democratic Party because of the concern we on this side of the House are raising about environmental issues. She says we are behaving "odiously". She says we are "making faceless accusations". She says we are "engaging in buffoonery to attract the press which is already on the lookout for scandals". In effect she is saying that the press has been scandal-mongering on this issue of fundamental importance to Canadians relating to the heritage of this country. If we have been blessed with anything in Canada, it is the birthright of one of the last great frontiers in the world, which is an absolutely priceless heritage, and that is what we on this side of the House are trying to protect.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That's all we heard this morning, Mr. Speaker. It is the motto of this Government that when the heat is on, lash out at the other side. Do not respond in terms of substance. Do not respond generously and directly to the questions. Do not respond in an expansive fashion, so that the people of Canada can take some comfort in the fact that the Government really does care about our heritage and our environment and about the priceless land and water we have been given by the Almighty.

Did we hear from the Minister about what she plans to do? Did we hear from her about what she stands for? Not a word. Did we hear from the Minister what action she would take to pressure her Tory colleagues in the Government of Ontario to bring into force a "spills Bill"? Let me talk about the Ontario "spills Bill". It was an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act, Part IX. It was introduced in the Ontario Legislature in 1978 and passed by the Legislature in 1979. If it is ever proclaimed, it will oblige polluters to pay. But this Act, on the books at Queen's Park since 1979, has not yet been proclaimed into law. What is the Government of Ontario waiting for? Does the Minister know? Can she tell us why? Has she been in touch with her counterpart at Queen's Park to urge him to proclaim the Bill to give the people of this province some protection so that within the joint jurisdiction the two Governments can mobilize against the kind of incidents we are describing? Her colleagues in Ontario, the Ministers and the Government, are dragging their feet on this Act and on other environmental issues, and they have been doing so for the past six years, and it is becoming very obvious that the only thing the two levels of Government share on environmental matters is neglect.

● (1550)

Returning now for a moment to federal responsibility, we have had no explanation from the Minister of the reason for the cancellation, as of April 1, of the \$2.5 million program regarding toxic chemical control, which cancellation will be

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particularly damaging in Ontario and Quebec. This program reviewed and monitored emissions by municipalities in Ontario and Quebec, emissions from industry and dump sites of toxic chemicals, waste and refuse. It was an absolutely essential program and the Minister either did not have the clout with Treasury Board or with the Minister of Finance, or else she was not advised that the program was about to expire on March 31. In any event, she has done nothing about it and that program is now dead, to the detriment of the people of Ontario and Quebec, indeed to the detriment of the people living around the international waters adjoining those two provinces. We did not get any information about that this morning when she responded in this debate. All we got, once again, was a feeble attempt to attack the Opposition.

I want to tell the Minister once again that that will not wash with the people of Canada. They want leadership on the environment and they are not getting it. She can smile, but it may be one of her last smiles as the people of Canada finally mobilize.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We have heard nothing from this Government on what action it intends to take to encourage the U.S. administration to take action to force its industries along the Niagara River to clean up leaking dump sites. One of the most pressing problems we face is the devastation of acid rain. At least 50 per cent of it comes from the U.S. and showers down on our forests, lakes and rivers, not only polluting but killing and poisoning. What was the Minister's response when we first brought this issue up in the House? Here are her exact words: "It is not a priority." The Prime Minister's response: "We are not doing our part on this side of the border so how can we expect the Americans to do theirs?" But as our critic, the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), who spoke so eloquently this morning, was so quick to point out, the truth is the opposite. Canada has done very well in reducing acid rain. We have had a program in place to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 25 per cent by 1990, and 50 per cent by 1994. The U.S. has no such program. They produce 19.6 million tons of nitrous oxide per year while we produce 1.7 million tons. So let us not play around with the facts in this particular case.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said that acid rain was going to be at the top of his agenda at the Quebec Summit. We threw all our cards on the table. We told the Americans we were mostly to blame. We put in a last minute \$300 million program spread over a number of years, true, but we told the President of the United States in effect not to worry about it; *mea culpa* on the Canadian side, we are responsible. So the President came here hardly believing that we took the issue seriously on this side of the border. We threw all the cards on the table and got nothing in return. All we got was two envoys, Drew Lewis from the United States, the former Secretary of Transport—and there is nothing wrong with that—and we got the former Premier of Ontario, William Grenville Davis.

Mr. Darling: Nothing wrong with that either.