

parks in general for a long time. What is happening? We do not know. I can tell you in conclusion that the speech today by the minister is troubling us as to the future and what Canada is in for by the year 2000 in not finding it possible to endorse such a recommendation in the Brundtland Report.

Mr. Heap: Madam Speaker, I commend the hon. member for Davenport on his speech. I know his commitment over many years to questions on the environment even before he became a Member of Parliament is very firm and sincere. I would ask him if he would comment to us on the apparent willingness of the Liberal government of Ontario to allow the invasion and destruction of the old-growth forest in Temagami.

• (1310)

Mr. Caccia: Madam Speaker, I deplore the behaviour of the Ontario government in Temagami as much as the hon. member for Trinity—Spadina. I wish they would find the necessary political courage to do what needs to be done and to set into motion the social shock absorbers that are needed for the workers affected in that area in order to carry them over. These decisions are difficult. Therefore, they require a convergence of environmental and social measures. It is the lack of social measures and this false dichotomy that it is either the environment or the economy that troubles many of us. We know that if we do not resolve politically and psychologically that false dichotomy—and in the long-term we do not see all these forces coming together—we will be left with no original wilderness and natural areas because there will always be pressure for their elimination and always for some reason. A classic example of that is what has happened to the forests in the Mediterranean area. All historical accounts and records tell us that the Mediterranean watershed was rich with forests. They began to be harvested intensively by the Venetians around the 14th century or 15th century. Those forests have not regrown.

I am sure at that time the Venetians made a very good case to exploit those forests for economic reasons. I suppose the same was the case for North Africa. The records indicate that the entire Mediterranean Basin, north and south of those waters, was richly endowed with forests. They are gone and I am sure that the same

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arguments are being raised these days for the cutting of Temagami and other areas that are in dispute. We must come around on that issue if we want to leave something for future generations to enjoy.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the courage of the member who has just spoken on the many issues on which we have fought together. I am still shell-shocked at the remarks of the minister this morning. I thought there was a lot more spirit in the man as a man and I thought there was a lot more energy in the man as a minister than has come through this morning.

The majority of bioregions that are still without representation are south of sixty. They are in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, and particularly in Quebec. Quebec is the most under-represented bioregion in North America. The majority of the cabinet are from Quebec but they do not seem to understand, let alone the maritimes. It is interesting to be talking about the vulnerability of the Arctic.

I know that some time today the Speaker will remind all members of the House that this is not a non-confidence votable motion and I would like the member to touch on that. I would like the member to touch on the shock that I share with him on what I believe is the first member of this Conservative government to publicly reject the recommendations of the Brundtland report. It happens to be the Minister of Environment. It is truly shocking and I would like to quote from a very excellent article "The Upshot" to get the member to tie those three things together and respond:

—in a 1987 national Gallup poll, over 95 per cent of Canadians voiced their approval of government spending to preserve our wilderness areas. This high level of support extended across all regions of Canada, and among all socio-economic groups. Not surprisingly, 96 per cent of those who had visited a national or provincial park within the past two or three years favoured such spending, but even among those who had not made such a visit the approval level was high, at 91 per cent. These kind of data are further buttressed by powerful Canadian opinion in favour of protecting the environment in general. For example, 93 per cent of us say we shouldn't relax environmental laws to achieve economic growth, 88 per cent say protecting the environment is more important than keeping prices down, 87 per cent are upset about the lack of action taken to protect the environment, 84 per cent participate in wildlife-related activities, 82 per cent express concern about saving endangered species, 70 per cent say we should do