Our fisheries and forestry staff is now being supplemented by other competent people. They are being joined by scientists, engineers, resource economists and technicians from the Wildlife Service and from the water resources section of the Mines Department. Add in survey crews which our forestry service sends out every summer and other teams from the Meteorological Service and from National Health and Welfare, and you can see that we in this department are already plugged in to our natural environment. We are already keeping a keen eye on things, locally and regionally from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the high Arctic to the International Boundary Line.

This manpower, backed up by regional laboratories is extremely helpful. But we still need a system of continuous monitoring—monitoring of our water, our air and our soil. We need to know what is happening, hour by hour, to our fish and our trees, to our wildlife and our birds, and to the health of man himself. We should be in a position to publish local environmental indices such as the air pollution index which is being reported, regularly, in Toronto these days.

Like our consumer price index these environmental indices will help Canadians to know how fast things are improving and what effects new industries are having on the communities in which they locate. At the beginning of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I stressed the need for action. I talked about a critical path. I talked about a timetable and I talked about getting things done. Here are a few of the highlights which I see us hitting over the next few months. Here are a few of the things which we can do before our new Department of Environmental Affairs is formally set up by Parliament.

First, we can transfer the relevant branches, divisions and sections of other departments to Fisheries and Forestry and begin to operate as a federal unit next week.

Second, I can, privately, name a dozen key advisers across the country. These authorities in the twin fields of renewable resource development and environmental control will meet with me periodically. We will begin to hammer out our guidelines. We will begin the task of mapping our future and roughing out our critical path for the early 70's. Here, then, is our National Environmental Council in embryo. These men and women will form the nucleus around which the government might later build a formally constituted council for the future.

Third, I personally intend to meet all of the provincial ministers who are concerned with pollution and the quality of life. I will go to them; they will not have to come to me. I will visit the provincial capitals asking for advice and talking about co-operation. I will ask our provincial people how they think we should word a new national clean air act. I will be pushing all of them to name water quality management areas—areas for joint federal-provincial management in which our new Canada Water Act can apply and soon.

Fourth, we will shortly be releasing our first nationwide standards under the Fisheries Act. These regulations will be brought in industry by industry. Starting with elemental mercury and phosphorous we will move quickly into pulp and paper. Already our regulations dealing with effluents from the pulp and paper industry have been drafted. Next week we will begin discussions of them in all their detail with the provinces and with the industry itself. Some further editing may be required because we want these regulations to work. But they will be proclaimed before the end of the year and they will then provide national norms which new mills must surpass and to which old ones must move during the 70's.

Fifth, we can do more, much more, under the Canada Shipping Act. We can get a lot tougher with tanker owners and the oil companies. We must set up revolving funds to look after those who, through no cause of their own, are hurt by oil spills and the like. And we must have task forces standing by in case of future crises like the *Arrow* and the *Irving Whale*.

Sixth, we can launch more high priority, government-industry sponsored research projects similar to the one I recently announced for the pulp and paper industry aimed at the development of new processes for treating their effluents in a satisfactory way.

Seventh, we can encourage and provide as much information as possible to local societies whose aim it is to clean up their surroundings and make proposals for action to the government.

Finally, a word about perspectives. Our tiny earth is rocketing through space like a capsule. Clearly it is self-contained and self-sustaining. Biologically speaking it can also be self-regulating. A million life cycles are pulsating within well defined limits—limits set by the earth's own eco-system. These life cycles are linked and interact with each other in a million different ways.

In the past things seemed to work reasonably well. Now, however, some sand appears to be getting into our gears. Like moondust, this sand is barren. It is inorganic. It is inanimate. It is non-living. It is non-renewable. Worse still, this sand is sometimes anti-biological in nature. It can destroy life. It can wipe out entire species. It can strip our gears. It can mess up our food chains and it can even poison man himself.

• (3:20 p.m.)

This sand is the product of man's own inventiveness. It is being created by our chemists and our physicists. It includes radioactive waste, chlorinated hydrocarbons and metallic substances like mercury. It is being turned loose in our sensitive biosphere.

This sort of thing has to stop. It has to stop immediately. This is why industries will have to clear their new products in the future, and this is why industry must recycle its effluent. This is why old factories and our existing cities and towns must become as antiseptic as possible. This is why we need to co-operate at all levels of government in Canada. This is why we also need a new department of environmental affairs to work at home and to work with other countries in our crusade to save man from himself.