

parcs and which today are very attractive to economic development.

What we must do is freeze the resources and the natural wealth of Canadian parks and make a commitment, as a government and as a country, to complete our network of parks by the year 2000. I have made this commitment, and I can inform the House that this is what the government is now working on. In my own department it is a top priority. In cabinet, it is among our three most important issues. I am referring to an environmental action plan for the next five years that will lead the way to implementing sustainable development throughout the country. One of the major components of this action plan will be to implement our commitment to complete the network by the year 2000.

Before answering any questions, I would like to say a few words about an additional commitment we have been asked to make, and that is to set aside, specifically, formally and mathematically, 12 per cent of Canada's territory for parks. This figure is taken from the Brundtland report.

I would like to point out to the House, Madam Speaker, that it is a general proposal that is in no way particularly intended for Canada and the proposal in the Brundtland Report makes no distinction between very small countries which are completely developed and where the very scarce green spaces which are in danger must be preserved immediately and a big country like ours where we have wide open spaces.

So is the 12 per cent rule binding on Canada? No, Madam Speaker! I do not know what the exact percentage is. For example, I do not know what standards my colleague is using when he says that 12 per cent of Canada's green spaces must be saved. Why 12 per cent? Why not 14 per cent? Why not 8 per cent? Why not 9 per cent? We have 6 per cent now. Six per cent of Canada is already more than many countries in the whole world.

Must we do more? I think so. I think that we should increase the percentage. But the important thing for me is first and foremost to create parks where they need to be created, to complete the system in the 39 ecological regions of the country. What percentage will this give us? We will find out as we go along. But I do not think it

### *Supply*

would be wise to set a figure like 12 per cent—that would lack the required flexibility.

Protecting the environment is not a bureaucratic operation. Completing Canada's parks system is not an accounting procedure. I think we have to be careful there! As far as I am concerned, of course, I cannot vote for the motion. It is a problem of form, which I regret, but we live in a parliamentary system. We perceive this motion as requiring a no-confidence vote. I will not vote no confidence in the government. But the basic principles contained in the motion seem perfectly acceptable to me, with the exception of the 12 per cent criterion. I think this percentage is quite debatable.

[*English*]

**Mr. Fulton** Madam Speaker, the minister seems to have confused part of my remarks. I think he understands very well where the figure 12 per cent came from. I quoted from the Brundtland Commission report. The members of the commission solicited material from biologists and others from around the world as they were travelling on the minimum level required to maintain at least a reasonable degree of biodiversity on earth. Twelve per cent was an internationally arrived upon consensus figure, that being the minimum. If we can get beyond that that is great.

I, for one, do not understand the rationale behind the minister's remarks about Canada having 6 per cent set aside in all of the possible park protection statuses that there are in this country. As I pointed out, the study done by the World Wildlife Fund concluded that only 2.6 per cent of Canada is actually really protected. Mining, logging and all kinds of other activities are allowed in that other 4 per cent, which is principally made up of provincial parks and others.

I have two questions. At the Toronto Conference it was decided to reduce carbon dioxide by 20 per cent by the year 2005. That was arrived at by consensus. In the Brundtland report 12 per cent has been arrived at by consensus. Canada is somewhere between 2 per cent and 6 per cent now and we need to get to 12 per cent or more.

Does the minister not think that it requires the leadership of the federal government to get there? We can see that for some provinces it is no longer possible. In P.E.I., New Brunswick and Nova Scotia it is very