

*Government Orders*

municipality by the federal government, through the National Capital Commission. The NCC sold the land for the purpose of building a parkway with restricted access to trucks. No trucks over five tonnes were to be allowed. Go and see if the police and the municipal authorities are enforcing that provision of the contract.

As I said, if a link is created by extending the Vanier thoroughfare, or parkway rather, to facilitate interprovincial traffic, it would be totally unacceptable that the federal government be party to a deal that is going to destroy the quality of life in my riding. What for? To allow dangerous materials and other goods to travel through the city of Ottawa, when many other alternatives exist. Bill C-13 calls for, suggests and provides that not only the impacts but also possible alternatives be investigated.

[*English*]

If there is a hook in that proposed extension of the Vanier arterial which has a federal implication, I can say right now that we will fight that project, and I think we are right to do it.

I notice you are giving me a signal, Madam Speaker, that my time is just about up. I have two minutes.

The stated purpose of the bill mentioned in clause 4 includes ensuring that environmental effects projects receive careful consideration, encouraging responsible authorities to take actions to promote sustainable development in order to achieve and maintain a healthy environment and a healthy economy, and ensuring opportunities for public participation in the environmental assessment process. These are certainly worthy objectives. It is my hope that this government will take them to heart when it applies legislation to projects. I hope it will ensure that the regulations have teeth and are strong enough that we are caring for our future and making sure we do not pollute.

I want to make sure that the NCC, the National Capital Commission which is an agency of this government, a Crown corporation, is covered by this bill. I know clause 8 of the bill says Crown corporations within the meaning of the present administration act are covered and it refers to another clause for the regulations. The

regulations are very important to us because they will give us the direction the government wants to go in.

I end this short comment by saying that Bill C-13 is an important, positive step in joining concrete actions to symbolic commitments for a better protection of our environment. I hope the regulations that go with this bill will carry enough weight, as I said, to ensure an effective and much improved environmental assessment process.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil):** Madam Speaker, the member for Ottawa—Vanier made an excellent speech, particularly since he wanted to protect the interests of his constituency. At one point, he also talked about the political stakes of this bill. He said that this legislation would keep provincial and federal governments from doing too much politics with the environment because, in his opinion, the environment is very important. He added that everybody was interested in the environment and that it was necessary to keep politicians from making politics with that. He also said that the federal government must not interfere in his constituency in Ottawa. There is a bit of contradiction in that.

I believe that this bill is probably acceptable for the small provinces that do not have the resources to tackle the environment issue. However, the larger provinces such as Quebec and Ontario should be the first to decide, because they can afford to conduct their own environmental assessments. That would keep the federal government from interfering and bothering businesses that want to settle in those provinces, as well as delaying economic projects, for instance in the province of Quebec.

This is the big problem that the bill will create by enabling the federal government to encroach on provincial jurisdictions such as Quebec, which has its own department of environment, as well as the resources to conduct its own assessments, in the same manner, to protect the environment. Why would the federal government again interfere and take on more power in Quebec if the government of that province objects to that? I want to tell you, Madam Speaker, that the Quebec National Assembly just voted, five minutes ago, on a motion which says: "That the National Assembly strongly disapproves of Bill C-13 of the federal government, an act to