

*Private Members' Business*

threatened by chemical pollution in the environment. Acid rain, air pollution and global warming add to the pressures on these species.

Canada should apply more firmly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. It must put a stop to the over harvesting of endangered species in the world as a whole. Illegal trade in certain wild animals has almost led to their extinction.

I would like to take a moment to voice my criticism at the decision by the Nova Corporation of Calgary, which was awarded the contract to build a pipeline between Argentina and Chile, and, to save money, will cross right through the city of Pirque and has already started cutting through extremely rare and ancient trees in Chile along the way. The Chilean parliament recently adopted a resolution supporting the demands of the population of Pirque, a city located at the foot of the Andean Cordillera, who wants the gas pipeline to be kept at a distance from their city.

• (1800)

That resolution also calls for a complete study on the environmental impact to be carried out before the pipeline is constructed. In my opinion, Canadian companies in other countries ought to respect the same environmental standards as those in effect in Canada. I have taken the liberty of writing to the Minister of the Environment deploring this situation and asking that she intervene with the management of the Nova Corporation of Calgary to ensure that it will comply in Chile with the standards already in force in Canada. I would ask the same of all Canadian corporations who invest in other countries. There is a moral duty to respect the minimum legislation already in place in Canada.

Although this is typically a provincial responsibility, much to our dismay only four provinces have passed legislation to protect these species, and I am referring to Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

I am delighted to say that for years Quebec has had its own legislation and its own Department of the Environment and Wildlife, one of whose objectives is to protect threatened species.

The federal government has limited jurisdiction in this area. It is responsible for the preservation of fauna and flora on federal lands, for instance, parks managed by Ottawa. It is also responsible for regulating international and interprovincial trade and for preventing illegal trafficking in endangered species. However, it should not encroach on provincial jurisdictions, and especially Quebec's.

This legislation has raised many questions in this regard. The Quebec Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, Jacques Brassard, has already announced his own strategy for the preservation of Quebec's biological diversity. He has asked the

federal government to remain within the sectors that are its exclusive responsibility.

My Bloc Québécois colleagues, the hon. members for Laurentides and Anjou—Rivières-des-Prairies, previously commented in considerable detail on the subject during the debate last June.

Although the bill's objectives are indeed praiseworthy, I cannot support this legislation because it encroaches on provincial jurisdictions, and more particularly that of Quebec.

Once again I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Davenport on his dedication to environmental issues, which I fully support, but I also wish to inform him that the Bloc Québécois will vote against this bill.

[English]

**Mr. Glen McKinnon (Brandon—Souris, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to speak on this bill. Previous speakers today have enunciated the fact that there has been or still is a patchwork of legislation across the country.

There appears to be some consistency lacking. Concerns about a lack of endangered species legislation in greater Canada has been expressed for well over a decade.

It is my view that all Canadians have a moral responsibility to ensure that future generations enjoy and benefit from the presence of diverse wildlife species. The federal, provincial and territorial governments together must provide the required leadership and legislative tools thereto. That strategy will set the stage for action in a number of areas, including the identification and protection of endangered species.

The biodiversity convention calls for the development or maintenance of necessary legislation to protect wildlife and their habitats at risk.

• (1805)

The responsibility for protecting endangered species is shared among the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Options for federal endangered species legislation have been explored with the preferred course of action being a co-operative national approach. The federal government continues to work co-operatively with the provinces and the territories to develop and ensure this national approach. Because there is currently no federal endangered species legislation in Canada and only a patchwork of provincial legislation, we need a strengthened national effort to ensure endangered species conservation.

In November 1994 the Minister of the Environment was presented with a 75,000 signature petition calling for a law to protect endangered species. This petition, the more than 5,000 subsequent letters and the comments made during public consultations clearly indicate that Canadians, children and adults alike, expect federal leadership on this issue.