

persuade the parliamentary secretary now. Perhaps, if the minister were not at Globe 92, he would rise now before Question Period and agree that this is the kind of clause that should be included.

I think it has been a fairly successful debate this morning. I would just like to close off, Mr. Speaker. You have had a moment to reflect on my story about the level of the ice and the real level of Bill C-13. We have an opportunity, this being the springtime, to fill it back up again with goodwill on behalf of Canada's environment.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the member for Skeena, our environment critic, spoke eloquently on this amendment to clause 17. The amendment is in the name of my friend from Davenport who is a former environment minister and whose amendments and remarks are always worth considering and are usually persuasive in this House. I rise to speak on that.

The hon. member for Skeena mentioned the notion of Williston Lake. I happened to be with him one time going up that lake. It is really quite startling. It is a 100-mile long lake that was created by us, really, by engineers and so on. They created that lake and that caused some very strange things to happen.

The member mentioned what it was like in winter and the illusion of the ice, the illusion of normality. One should see it in summer. There used to be some beautiful native villages and a beautiful valley there.

It was decided that we needed this power. There was no environmental assessment, nothing. There was a dam. The Bennett dam was built there. In the summer you cannot go along that lake in a canoe because, if you do, you are liable to get a missile hitting you from the bottom. The trees at the bottom were left there when it was flooded. Over time they have become loose. As you go along, occasionally the trees will just come up like a guided missile from the bottom and surface on the lake. People have actually been hurt in boats and canoes. They cannot go on the lake.

It is important that we now get a modern environmental process that really works. That is why the minister's discretion must be looked at very carefully. As the member for Skeena said, there must be enforceable national standards. We must not set up an act in which a weak minister or a weak government like this Conservative government can start ignoring things to help their

friends as they did with the Oldman Dam in Saskatchewan.

I know we are going into Question Period, so we will come back to this amendment. I hope the House can support this amendment so that we can make a strong, enforceable standard here.

[Translation]

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** It being two o'clock, the House will now hear statements pursuant to Standing Order 31.

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

### INTEREST RATES

**Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert):** Madam Speaker, the issue is credit card interest rates. With the downturn of the economy, there are more credit cards in circulation. An estimated 55 million have been issued. That is more than two cards per Canadian over the age of 18.

Why are credit card rates so high? Is there an agreement between the credit companies to keep the rates sky-high at the expense of consumers? Why are the rates twice that of the prime interest rate? These are the questions that the banks, the financial institutions, the retail stores and the trust companies must answer.

While consumers are being ripped off with high credit card interest rates, the financial institutions are making huge profits and paying little income tax.

Madam Speaker, this is not the Canadian way of fairness. I call on Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada to take action immediately.

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### LAW OF THE SEA

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Madam Speaker, the Government of Canada is unwilling to ratify the Law of the Sea, yet invokes it when asking for international restraint in fishing stocks such as the northern cod.

The government cannot have it both ways. Last week the Minister of Fisheries said he will put fish on the table at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development next June in Rio de Janeiro where conventions on the environment and natural resources will be examined.