

*Government Orders*

Some hon. members: Agreed.

**Mr. Mills:** I would like to first of all congratulate my colleague from York North who must feel some sense of satisfaction today because during his last campaign he worked hard to bring to his constituents' attention the fact that the Oak Ridges moraine was an issue of concern. He made a commitment at that time to continue to work on this issue and here we are three years later in the House of Commons debating this very important issue and asking the government to take a lead role in co-ordinating all the various agencies of government whether they be municipal or provincial in making sure that the Oak Ridges moraine is protected.

One of the reasons I am so concerned and so supportive of the Oak Ridges moraine is because of the fact that the headwaters of the Don River, which is the western boundary of my riding, flow from the Oak Ridges moraine.

Although the Hon. David Crombie, Charles Souriol, Mark Wilson and others are working very, very hard on a variety of agenda items to begin the process of reclaiming the Don River, we cannot really see satisfaction for our work unless the Oak Ridges moraine is also put into a similarly protected mode. This is why I am so supportive of this. The Don River has now become a chemical cauldron filled with toxic and biological waste and some of that toxic waste flows from the aquifer of the Oak Ridges moraine.

• (1200)

I urge this House not to be sheepish or nervous about supporting this bill. Here is an opportunity where the government can take a lead role and I urge it to get behind it.

**Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to address this motion put forward by my colleague from York North, together with my other colleagues from Broadview—Greenwood and Northumberland.

Time does not permit me to address all of the issues today, but clearly my riding of Scarborough—Rouge River has an interest in the Oak Ridges moraine, its preservation and its protection.

The issue that arises here is: Whose job is it, what level of government? The bottom line is that the job belongs

to all levels of government and to all individuals, the human beings who populate the area.

The Oak Ridges moraine is the source of water for many rivers which have all been mentioned here today. They flow south through areas and one of the ridings in that area is mine, Rouge River. One of the rivers that derives its water source from the Oak Ridges moraine is the Rouge River. Happily the lands surrounding that river are on their way to being preserved, but there are 40 species of fish that populate the Rouge River. Some are quite rare, but they are there and alive unbelievably still. We want to protect the water quality and we want to protect the water quantity.

The type of activity now taking place on the Oak Ridges moraine is now starting to place the Oak Ridges moraine under stress. We want to take note of the fact that this activity is putting many of these rivers under stress. If the water quality deteriorates so does the quality of life for the species that need the river and for the human beings that need the water derived from those rivers.

Just to sum up very quickly, there are two facets here. We raised the matter in this House not just for the fish in the river but for the human beings around, for all of us. We are one ecological unit. Let the parliamentary record show that members in this House care about this issue and support the resolution of the member for York North.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

### TRUST AND LOAN COMPANIES ACT

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-4, an act to revise and amend the law governing federal trust and loan companies and to provide for related and consequential matters, as reported (with amendments) by the Standing Committee on Finance.