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mitment to meet and a structure set up in which to carry on discussions. That is not perfect. The Prime Minister said, and I quote from *The Globe and Mail*:

"I never said our position and results on acid rain were a triumph," ... "They just appear to be a triumph given the lack of progress ..."

We have the subcommittee on which a number of Members have served over the years. There are the titles of the reports, *Still Waters* and *Time Lost*. There is no question about what this House believes. It believes we have to have an accord. However, I ask Hon. Members to recognize, as I said a few minutes ago, that this is not the floor of the U.S. Senate or the floor of the House of Representatives. This is a Canadian Parliament trying to determine how we influence most effectively a country which happens to be our best friend, and which we know has in its Senate, in the Congress and in the White House Republicans and Democrats who support our view. Let us also remember there are some Democrats as well as some Republicans who do not support our view. That is the task that is before us, and that is what I ask Hon. Members to take into account when we discuss this matter here.

● (1550)

There comes a point where our own people will not take us seriously if all we want to do is to nitpick and to ask, "Who did the most when and why didn't you?" That does not do us any good. I do not expect perfection around here, and I will never make the mistake of one Hon. Member who said, "The trouble with this place is it's getting too political". One of the groups in this country that has done the most magnificent work for us all is the Canadian Coalition Against Acid Rain. Adele Hurley and Michael Perley and those who have worked with them, including some of the associations that have been mentioned here today, deserve our praise and our support.

The Canadian Coalition Against Acid Rain has not said, "Well, because we have this understanding now with the administration of the United States there is nothing further for us to do". We are not saying that, neither are the outfitters and the guides, or the provinces that have entered into the arrangements.

My hon. friend, the Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Parry) read out a letter that the Right Hon. Prime Minister sent out during the 1984 campaign. It will surprise nobody in this Chamber to know that I know something about that letter. What the Prime Minister said was that in six months we will have a domestic plan, under which we will act unilaterally along the same lines that the Hon. Member for Davenport when he was the Minister finally said in 1984 we would have to do. He had the support of all the members of the Acid Rain Subcommittee and many members who were not part of that committee.

What I am getting at, my hon. friends, is that there is much we can do here together, and when the Prime Minister said in the campaign, "We will put our domestic house in order in six months", that is exactly what the then Minister of the Environment of this Government, the Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) did. Within, I think it was, two days of

the six-month promise, she had in place the agreements necessary with the provinces. Now that is progress.

The effect of taking the unilateral action on our part had a great deal to do with giving the Prime Minister the moral impetus that he needed to go to the President and say, "Look, I understand how far apart we are. We are not coming to you with clean hands, but we believe it is so bad economically for both our countries that this is the money that we are prepared to spend, these are the steps that we are going to take. We are giving that leadership as a federal Government and we have persuaded the provinces, all of those affected, and all Parties in this country, to support us."

Until we did that we were topped by our opponents in the United States who said, "This is all a conspiracy theory, the Canadians want to get your mind off energy problems or they want to sell us electricity. It is all phoney". I have argued with the lawyers who advance those causes in the United States. I have shown them for the fraudulent efforts they were. Until we can get our hands a lot cleaner and until we can say we are making this effort, those arguments will be used continually against us.

It is the same thing with automobile emissions. The Hon. Member for Davenport knows perfectly well that several years ago when the Acid Rain Subcommittee was sitting in Toronto he could not even get the Department of Transport to send a witness to us on automobile emissions.

Now it is not my purpose to go into all that. It is my purpose to say that if ever there was a cause in this country, short of having a fight for our very existence in which all Hon. Members should be able to come together it is this. We should send a message, but do it in such a way that we remember that the object of the exercise is to send a message effectively. We should remember that we are in this Chamber, we are talking with another sovereign country who is our ally and our friend. We do not have to agree with them on all things, we may disagree with them on many, but we have to live together and we have to have our discussions in such a way that we recognize their dignity and their self-respect. And that I think is what the Prime Minister tried to do. So I hope Hon. Members will give credit where I believe credit is very much due.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton)):
Questions and comments.

Mr. Penner: Well, I have no question except that I want to say this to the Hon. Member, that the quality of his speech, I think, exemplifies the best in debate in this House of Commons. It is exactly the kind of speech that we expected to hear from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) in his response to the motion from the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia). We have heard quite a different kind of speech. I am not going to go into detail describing for Members how they should make the contrast, but I just ask all Hon. Members in the House when they have time, to go back over *Hansard* and make their own comparison and they will see the contrast.