

to deal with this when the government has a double standard. One, they talk, but two, no action.

Ms. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca. I realize that in his own experience as a provincial premier he knows the difficulties in dealing with federal governments. One of the things I mentioned in my speech is that the former industrial strategies in the province of Nova Scotia had perhaps less than full environmental approval. I am referring of course to both the steel plants and the coal mines. That, as I said, is no longer a problem.

The ideas of alternate energy sources in Nova Scotia at the moment include coal. As the hon. member is aware, there are several coal mines running in the province. Unfortunately, they are running at a loss. The products from these coal mines are firing a number of electrical generating plants in the province of Nova Scotia, but sadly these plants have to be subsidized because there is no real plan for alternate fuel other than fossil fuel. There is no real commitment from either the provincial government in the province of Nova Scotia or from the federal government to assist hard-pressed, economically depressed provinces like Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

These are some of the most beautiful places on earth and we are throwing them away because there is no political will and there is no plan. Those before such as Nova Scotia's Ecology Action Centre have long and noble service in giving advice to government, which is virtually ignored. As the hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca was saying, those people are ignored both by provincial governments and certainly by this federal government. We have various environmental strategies but nothing but deaf ears do they fall on, here with the Mulroney government and back home with the Buchanan government.

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to compliment my hon. colleague for a most important discourse on this important subject of the environment. It also taught me a few new things about another part of the country with which I was not that familiar. But I would like to ask my hon. colleague a question dealing with how Canadians see the role of government which was touched upon throughout *The*

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Green Paper. I would like to begin my question by referring to a poll that was taken two years ago. They discovered that, if a company repeatedly pollutes at unsafe levels, over nine out of ten Canadians want corporate executives held personally and I emphasize that, personally responsible. Sixty three per cent favour fines but a whopping 19 per cent of Canadians say corporate executives should be jailed. I would like to ask my hon. colleague if she agrees with the assessment of two out of ten Canadians that corporate polluters who flout the regulations on a federal level or on a provincial level should go to jail?

• (1610)

Ms. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, I think the responsibility of board members of corporations should be more serious than merely a financial burden. With jail sentences we get into jurisdictional problems *vis-à-vis* criminal law and civil law. Should there be criminal sanctions for environmental infractions? I think the answer is most definitely yes. Whether it should be jail or not, I think would depend on the infraction and what happened exactly.

I think we should have a section of the Criminal Code relating to environmental crime. I think sanctions should not merely be in the form of fines against a corporation but the people who run the corporation should be held liable personally. I am not prepared to go as far as jail. We will have to see the individual situation.

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, I find myself a little puzzled by the contradiction that appears here. Perhaps the hon. member can help me out.

Ms. Clancy: With pleasure.

Mr. Casey: I am sure it will be. On issues such as the GST, VIA Rail and government cut-backs, the opposition insists on consultation with the people. It wants hearings across Canada. It wants the public to have its say.

The Green Plan does exactly that. It gives the people in my riding an opportunity to have a say in what can be done to address environmental problems in our area. There are 35 meetings scheduled and more may be added. I find it a contradiction that the GST is important enough to let people voice their opinions as is VIA Rail