

Messrs:

Valade
Walker
Watson
Weatherhead

Whiting
Winch
Woolliams
Yanakis—147.

• (1550)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, surely by voting for the continuation of this debate the vast majority of the members of this House have indicated their concern about the critical problem of oil pollution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I give up.

[English]

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, we are particularly concerned about the matter of oil pollution on Canada's west coast.

Mr. Woolliams: I see a long slick in the hon. member's speech.

Mr. Perrault: Regardless of our party affiliations, all of us are aware of the enormous ecological and environmental damage which could be caused by an oil spill there.

Mr. Stanfield: Don't forget governmental pollution!

Mr. Perrault: Having said this, I think it is distressing to learn that some members of the opposition would seize on this issue in order to engage in partisan politics.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Perrault: If ever there has been an issue before Canada which required all-party unity, that issue is the fight against pollution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, what a contrast there is between the performance of the opposition today and the performance of government members on May 15. I am referring to page 2245 of *Hansard* and to the time when a member of the New Democratic Party moved the following motion:

That this House herewith declares that the movement of oil by tanker along the coast of British Columbia from Valdez in Alaska to Cherry Point in Washington is inimical to Canadian interests, especially those of an environmental nature.

And further, that this resolution be forthwith transmitted to the government of the United States of America in order that that government be apprised of the concern that the House of Commons of Canada has about the proposed movement of oil.

Oil Pollution

The members on this side of the House did not indulge in partisan political activity when that motion was presented.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Perrault: There was all party unity on the matter. There was no penny ante effort on the part of government members to discredit the effort of that opposition member. We voted for his resolution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Perrault: The hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) who had an unprecedented opportunity to bring forward rational arguments respecting oil pollution measures spent most of his time making a bitter, personal attack on the mover of the motion.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Perrault: He did not seize the opportunity which was presented to advance useful, rational proposals. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I must say that no nation has worked more earnestly to undertake useful initiatives for protecting the world environment than has Canada. And I do not think statements attacking members who speak on the matter of oil pollution and Canada's environmental reputation abroad are useful ones in this debate. As members know, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis) is in Stockholm and is working with a world conference set up to fight pollution in all forms. The chairman of the conference is Mr. Maurice Strong, another Canadian.

The United Nations report entitled "Problems of the Human Environment" reads:

Pollution of the sea is a continual threat to its future productivity. Although the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil has been in existence since 1954, oil pollution remains a major concern, and other forms of equally damaging pollution continue with little or no control.

There are no simple methods for preventing oil pollution either on Canada's west coast or east coast, or anywhere else in the world for that matter. The report continues:

The control of pollution in the marine environment raises problems of a legal nature such as measures which states can take outside their territorial seas in self-protection against pollution liabilities arising from casualties involving discharge of oil or other pollutants, powers of surveillance by coastal states to implement measures for improving the safety of navigation and controlling maritime pollution.

The entire subject of pollution is being discussed at Stockholm at present and, again, Canada is providing a great measure of leadership at that world conference. With respect to the matter under discussion, the minister responsible for environmental matters in Canada, the hon. member for Capilano, was made aware immediately of the Cherry Point oil spill and of its movement into Canadian waters. As soon as this occurred, he had immediate discussions in Stockholm with Russell Train, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and with William Ruckelshaus, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He discussed