

Supply

who has a life-style which is wrapped up in ways which negatively affect the environment, and that includes almost everyone.

This is something I hope we will all keep in mind when we are debating Rafferty-Alameda, acid rain, PCBs, water quality in the Great Lakes, or whatever. All of these things need to be seen in the larger context of human survival and in the larger context of the integrity of creation. Unless we begin to think at that level about what we are doing when we are talking about these issues, we will not be addressing the problem adequately.

The minister can make a start today, in terms of creating that political will and in terms of demonstrating that political will, by telling Premier Grant Devine of Saskatchewan that, as far as the Government of Canada is concerned, he is acting outside the law and he will be treated the way outlaws are supposed to be treated. The licence should be revoked and, if construction on the project continues after that, then Mr. Devine ought to be answerable to the full extent of the law for the environmental crimes that he would be committing if he continued with that project.

• (1240)

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the rage and the outrage I just heard expressed, but I wonder if the hon. member could give me some information about the past involvement of his party on this issue. Perhaps if he heard a few dates and events, he could tell me how his party responded.

For instance, in February, 1986 Premier Grant Devine announced the multi-million dollar Rafferty-Alameda Dam project. If I am not mistaken, there was an NDP government in power in Manitoba at that time and perhaps he might want to tell me how it reacted.

Perhaps he might want to tell me how the NDP government in Manitoba reacted in August, 1987, when the development authority, set up by Saskatchewan and various environmental groups, approached the NDP government in Manitoba and asked them to take a very strong stand against this development. The NDP government in Manitoba at that time said: "It's not our responsibility. It is the federal government's responsibil-

ity." It let the environmental groups take the government to court and we know that those were successful.

Again, in February, 1988, when there was still an NDP government in power in Manitoba—unless I am mistaken—the Saskatchewan Environment Minister approved the Rafferty-Alameda Dam project, and still the NDP government in Manitoba, knowing the impact on Manitoba and the public objections in Manitoba, resisted the pleas of environmental groups to take some legal action to try to oppose this.

I wonder if the hon. member who has just spoken would like to explain to me the past record of his colleagues in Manitoba on this.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member for doing her homework, a rare incident in the Liberal caucus but it is nice to see it happen every once in a while.

The fact of the matter is two things. First, part of the problem at that time was that the federal government and the Government of Saskatchewan were careful to do everything they could to exclude the Government of Manitoba from the process and, indeed, from a lot of the information. But the fact remains that I have no desire to defend the passivity with which this issue was dealt by the NDP government of that time. It was far too passive on a variety of environmental issues and I believe it is one of the reasons it met the fate it did in 1988.

I could spend a lot more time than the hon. member has documenting the way in which the government of the province of Manitoba at that time, in my judgment, did not pay enough attention, and did not have the political will I was just talking about that is necessary to deal with the tough environmental questions that has to be dealt with.

For example, with respect to returnable containers, the availability of returnable containers actually declined under an NDP government. I see that the Ontario NDP government has made a different kind of decision today and is reported in *The Toronto Star* as going to be taking a tough line with the soft drink industry in trying to get the number of returnable containers up. This is good news. This is the kind of thing the Manitoba NDP government should have done and did not do. I was one of the ones who was always on its case asking it to do it. If the hon. members talks to any of the cabinet ministers, they will verify what I have just said.