

to the person pumping gas at the local garage, and to each of us as we make visitors feel welcome and want to return with their friends time after time. This is a great, big, beautiful country that each of us needs to promote at every opportunity.

The Opposition has shown unusual wisdom in selecting tourism as a topic for debate in the House today. This is the "year of tourism" in Canada. This was declared by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and supported by the federal, provincial and territorial Governments as well as the private sector. The year of 1984 is filled with events from coast to coast designed not only to attract visitors from the United States and abroad, but also to encourage Canadians to visit the length and breadth of this great country. The 450th anniversary of the arrival of one of Canada's first tourists, Jacques Cartier, provides the venue for celebrations throughout Quebec. If I remember my history correctly, Jacques Cartier must have enjoyed his visit because he returned in 1535 and again in 1541. I am sure the spectacle of the tall ships sailing through Atlantic Canada and up the St. Lawrence River will be appreciated.

The 200 years of New Brunswick's Loyalist heritage will be celebrated. The 150th anniversary of Toronto will be celebrated with an international festival. Also celebrated will be the 50th anniversary of Yellowknife, the 75th anniversary of the first powered flight in Canada at Baddeck, the Fredericton bicentennial, the 350th anniversary of Trois-Rivières with numerous celebrations, the 150th anniversary of Prescott, the centennial of Calgary, and the international air show in Abbotsford. These are but a couple of the many events taking place in 1984.

Of particular note, and highlighting the anniversary festivities taking place in some centres of Canada, will be the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. As some Members have already noted, 1984 also marks the first visit of a Pope to Canada. If Opposition Members doubt the Government's commitment to tourism, 1984 also signals 50 years of federal involvement in tourism promotion and development.

Canada is a big country, Mr. Speaker. I will try to explain just how big it is. I recently had the privilege of travelling to one of our far western points to represent the Government at the opening of a new customs port at Beaver Creek. We who live in central Canada think that Edmonton is in the west, but I was 1,500 miles north and west of Edmonton in the Yukon. I really enjoyed seeing for myself a part of Canada which I had only seen through the eyes of Jack London, the famous writer who wrote so eloquently of our north.

● (1740)

If there ever was a time for the Leaders of this country on both sides of the House to join together to tell Canadians and the world with one voice to see Canada, explore and enjoy it, it is 1984. What better way is there to convey the message than by example? Let each of us in the House commit ourselves today to spend our holidays in Canada. Nineteen eighty-four is here.

Supply

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that at least I have five minutes to speak in this debate. As the Member of Parliament for one of the great tourist paradises in the entire country, Parry Sound-Muskoka, let me emphasize how important I think, and in fact know, the tourist industry is.

I want to thank our critic for tourism for introducing his motion today. As the Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka, I have grave concerns about the present condition of the tourist industry, despite the fact that it is the second most important industry for bringing dollars into the Dominion of Canada. It is also a labour-intensive industry that employs over 1,135,000 people. I would also point out that many of those people do not have too many skills and therefore depend on this very important industry.

My colleague for Erie (Mr. Fretz) touched on the sport fishing industry and how important it is to the tourist industry. He is quite right. In Ontario alone, it is estimated that \$600 million is generated by sport fishermen and women who are certainly interested in seeing that there is good fishing and will go to where that good fishing exists.

This brings up another grave concern that I have. My riding is one of the most seriously affected by the acid rain problem. It is a serious problem which I know is important to both sides of the House. I commend the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) for his grave concern and for bringing it to the attention of the Cabinet. However, it is important that we do much more than talk about this issue.

The Minister has stated that the Government is proposing to reduce acid rain by 50 per cent by the year 1984. While I commend that, we certainly must begin sooner in order to start reducing acid rain. My riding is in the unfortunate position of having 70 per cent of all the acid rain that falls in Parry Sound-Muskoka coming from the United States. Regardless of what the federal or provincial Governments do to reduce acid rain, it will certainly not make any great impact until the U.S. Government follows suit. I hope continual pressure will be put on that administration. I also anticipated that the acid rain problem would be a higher priority in the forthcoming U.S. elections, but perhaps it will heat up before November so that the present Government there will take meaningful action on it.

There is no question that it will cost a lot of money to address this problem. Ontario is greatly blessed with over 250,000 lakes, but over 4,000 of those lakes are now seriously damaged by acid rain. Some 140 or more are dead. The fish population and the vegetation in those lakes have gone. While we have beautiful crystal-clear lakes, it takes more than that to attract tourists.

We are fortunate in Ontario and in my riding particularly that we are within a one day's drive for over 100 million Americans. It is a market with tremendous potential. The Minister of Small Businesses and tourism (Mr. Smith) stated