

Car Emission Controls

corporate or any other sector the priority. We will never be able to address environmental questions if we are held to that particular view of the world.

Mr. Kilgour: That is not our view and you know it.

Mr. Blaikie: That is the view that the Progressive Conservative Party is in bondage to. I do not think anyone would argue with me about that—at least anybody who knows anything about the Progressive Conservative Party.

Eastern European countries, which do not have the profit motive, still have the idolization of production. It is the Communist equivalent of profit, since productivity is put over and above the well-being of the future and the environment. Whenever the objective of production or profit takes precedence over the well-being of the environment and our common future, it is necessary to reconsider how we address economic questions.

We are sitting on an environmental time bomb. This includes such issues as acid rain and the thousands of pesticides and insecticides and other chemicals that are polluting our environment or the quality of the Great Lakes water. Rather than addressing this critical situation and determining how to reverse this trend, we are talking about short-term economic goals of Governments and companies. It is that kind of blindness which will lead us to destruction if we do not smarten up.

Permit me to tell a story that I told in committee. The Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) will recall that I had an opportunity to tell this story at the International Conference on the Environment in Nairobi which we attended. Many of the environmental problems that we experience are of a geometric nature. They grow exponentially. The time is very short between small problems becoming very serious. I ask Hon. Members to imagine a lily pond. This pond takes 28 days to be covered with lily pads. It grows from one little pad exponentially by twos until the 27th day when half the lily pond is left uncovered. Something must be done before the whole pond is covered, but there are those who say that since half the lily pond is uncovered there is no rush. However, on the 28th day the whole pond will be covered. This situation is analogous to the environment. We do not know, with respect to the Great Lakes water quality, whether we are at the 25th, 26th or 27th day. We do not know the situation with respect to acid rain. But that is the nature of the problem, and it behooves every responsible Government to begin to act now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Charles Hamelin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak to this motion which, I think, is well-meant. The motion concerns our environment and we are all grateful to the Hon. Member. It is one of the issues on which Canada's public opinion is focused.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, our Government has already shown leadership in this field, regardless of what many Members have said to the contrary.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should remind the House that our colleague the federal Minister of Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) recently signed with several provincial Ministers of the Environment an agreement which is aimed at reducing significantly various polluting emissions in our regions.

Like the previous speaker, others have made the environment issue into a political question. They wanted to make a political issue out of it. As several Members have pointed out, our society is obviously becoming ever more regulated. I think that incentive measures are a must. It is imperative that the Canadian people be made fully aware of the need to protect our environment. It happens to be one of our priorities and this debate gives us an opportunity to keep our constituents better informed. I come from a riding where the quality of life is absolutely—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. The hour allotted for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

● (1800)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS—BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS. (B) LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak today on a question of cut-backs in the field of arts and culture. One of the most disturbing aspects of these cut-backs that I have raised in a number of questions has been the surprise element, the betrayal, that the arts and cultural community has experienced.

The Conservatives while in Opposition, of course, said quite the contrary to what they are doing now. They were critical of the Liberal government for not being favourable enough and not giving enough support to arts and culture. During the election campaign the then Leader of the Opposition, now the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) replied to a letter sent to him on arts policy and spoke officially for the Party. This letter is dated August 21, 1984, addressed to Paul J. Reynolds of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres. I want to read some of the promises which the Prime Minister, then Leader of the Opposition, made during the election campaign so we can look at the arts and culture cut-backs relative to the promises that were made. Part of this letter reads:

Our first order of business will be full consultation with the cultural sector on opportunities which should be pursued, and dangers which must be avoided. Opportunities, such as increased Canadian program production from live