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initiating realistic debt restructuring in the Canadian agricultural industry.

Rather, the government has facilitated the process of dispossession through the Farm Debt Review Act, which was deliberately structured in such a way that the Farm Debt Review Board is unable to arbitrate settlements between farm debtors and their creditors.

As a consequence, the lending institutions remain unscathed and are now in legal possession of thousands of acres of farmland, millions of dollars worth of farm buildings and assets, and the levels of repression grow daily. The dispossessed, once people of the soil, farm families proud of their abilities to produce and pursue a rewarding way of life, are migrants or tenants of the corporate masters on land that has, in many cases, been in their families for years.

When will the government intercede to stop this corporate take-over of farms? Stop the lending institutions from profiting on the unfortunate circumstances in which some farmers temporarily find themselves.

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**MEECH LAKE ACCORD**

**Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, it is not often in our lives that we encounter historic moments when our own convictions may truly constitute leadership toward an important national purpose.

The Meech Lake Accord presents such a moment, and the unity of Canada is such a purpose. As we contemplate the frustrating discord to which the Meech Lake debate has now deteriorated, it is timely to reiterate our individual convictions that the Accord presents a unique opportunity for Canada to become whole and to renew our collective resolve to help make it so.

[*Translation*]

To me, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Canada needs Quebec and Quebec needs Canada.

[*English*]

As colleagues in all corners of the House, we reflect the unity that is Canada. In the critical weeks which remain let us individually and collectively intensify that

reflection upon the Meech Lake deliberations in every way that we can.

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[*Translation*]

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House to speak to a very urgent matter which concerns the people in the riding of Chambly, and more specifically, the residents of Saint-Basile-le-Grand. I received a resolution that was passed unanimously by the town council of Saint-Basile-le-Grand, which says that the people of this town feel they have been abandoned by the federal government with respect to the storage of PCBs that were partially burnt in a fire eighteen months ago. These people would like the government to set up a joint committee that would settle the storage problem once and for all and deal with the problem of adequate compensation for the people of Saint-Basile-le-Grand, because these people feel they have been abandoned by the federal government.

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[*English*]

**FISHERIES**

**Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, the crisis that we are going through in the fishery now demands immediate attention from the government.

We have a new minister, and we wish him well. He has received the reports of the Harris and the Haché committees. Now is the time to act. The government must manage those stocks in the future on behalf of all Canadians because it is a national resource.

Also, I remind the government that the principle that has been followed up to now is an adjacency principle and that, while it is a national stock, those closest to the resource should have priority. In my own area of Labrador we have the greatest resources in the world off our shores; yet, some of the most disadvantaged fishermen in Canada.

I call upon the government in the new management plan to reaffirm the principle of adjacency and to give priority to those who live and make their livings near those stocks.