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An Hon. Member: You were there?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I was there. We spoke. An expression the Haida people have said for 6,000 years stayed with me and I put on my Christmas card: "We do not inherit this land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." That is the whole purpose of this debate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I do not hold the Government responsible for every environmental disaster every place in the world, but I do hold the Government responsible for failure to act on the problems upon which Canadians must have a say. I think that we cannot judge what is going to happen as to the negligence aboard that ship. It is not for me to make a final judgment of where he was. He certainly was not on the bridge, and there was an unqualified person in charge of that ship at the time of the accident. I am not going to cast any judgment there.

I followed the reports in the *The New York Times* of the response of the State of Alaska. The State of Alaska has enjoyed in recent years a boom in terms of the oil that it has shipped southward to the lower 50, so that almost 75 per cent of the governmental revenues of the State of Alaska now depend on oil. However, in the review conducted by *The New York Times*, inquiries of the Governor's office, and the inquiries of the environmental protection office of the State of Alaska, it appears that over the last few years all the emergency equipment, all the emergency teams, all the emergency procedures have been allowed to lapse and in some events disbanded.

That is the situation we face in dealing with our American neighbours, and we are not going to make any judgments at this stage. I will have a few suggestions to make at the end of what I have to say.

Yesterday's Throne Speech was laden with fancy phrases about the Government's commitment to environmental protection. I have heard it all before from this Government. It is not good enough to say you care. Everybody cares, but not every Canadian has the opportunity to do something about it. The Bouchard twins have the opportunity to do something about it, and I have not seen any concrete action on their part.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Nearly five years ago the Conservatives promised the following in their election manifesto, and I want to read from it: "A Progressive

Conservative Government will make transboundary pollution problems the Government's top environmental priority. Instead of relying exclusively on diplomatic initiatives by the Minister of the Environment, a PC Government will also engage the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs on top level efforts."

What happened in this particular instance? I suspect precious nothing. I have heard that President Bush sent a couple of members of his Cabinet and a couple of secretaries at the secretarial level to the scene of the accident. I want to ask the Government: Has the Prime Minister called the President of the United States about this issue?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Have they discussed it? Have they brought it to the level that the election manifesto of the Conservative Party five years ago said they would elevate this issue to? Now we see the Minister of the Environment here. I will give him credit. He is looking intense. Somebody must have tipped him off to come back into the House—

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I would stay low because we are going to get at you in due course.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Charest: I can't wait, John.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We will reserve an opportunity for the Minister so that he can star and shine in his own orbital light. All we have seen for four and a half years since this Government took office is cuts to the environmental budget.

[*Translation*]

And now that both Ministers are here, now both Ministers claim that environmental protection is a priority. They did not say in the Speech from the Throne that they wasted four or four and a half years, that they cut Environment Canada's budget and that they massacred the national parks, that they eliminated scientific personnel who did tremendous research that was to Canada's intellectual credit. No, no, there was no mention of that in the Speech from the Throne.

[*English*]

As long as environmental issues are trendy, the Prime Minister is all for it. As long as a la mode, the Minister will be for it. As long as experimental issues might win a few votes and provide good photo opportunities, the Conservative Cabinet is all for them.