

Health and the Environment

the Minister of the Environment, and balance them against an inadequate performance. We cannot improve the environment unless we change the manner in which we conduct ourselves. We are looking for leadership, Madam Speaker. We are looking for somebody who will take the initiative and say, "There is no way you will drive that car between certain hours."

Mr. Darling: Change human beings?

Mr. Leggatt: You can change human beings from time to time. My Conservative friend has hit a philosophical concept that is totally fundamental. I have confidence in human beings and think they are capable of changing, but he does not.

Mr. Darling: I did not say that.

Mr. Leggatt: I have confidence in human beings and their ability to change, and I am waiting for that.

Mr. Roger Young (Niagara Falls): Madam Speaker, as this is the first occasion on which I have had the opportunity to address the House, I should like to make a few opening remarks in reference to the person of His Honour the Speaker.

An hon. Member: Her Honour.

Mr. Young: I am referring to His Honour the Speaker at this moment. I have many friends in Sudbury and they tell me of the great esteem and high regard they have for His Honour's person. We find now that such esteem and high regard is not limited to Sudbury but spreads across the length and breadth of this great country for the way in which Mr. Speaker carries out his duties. I would extend those remarks to the deputies of Mr. Speaker—yourself, Madam Speaker—because of the high regard in which we hold you.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young: It is a pleasure for me to stand and support Bill C-25 this evening, Madam Speaker. If I refer to my constituency by way of some prefatory remarks, I hope you will not find me guilty of straying from the essence of the bill itself, but rather by way of building the base from which I speak. I am explaining to you the impetus which gives rise to my desire to speak.

This legislation is of the utmost importance to my riding. I come from an area which is rich in the early development and history of this country, an area which is resplendent in natural beauty. When we speak of the natural environment, Niagara people know very well whereof they speak. We have in our area Lakes Erie and Ontario, the Niagara River, the Great Falls themselves, the beginnings of the Niagara escarpment and the commencement of the Bruce trail. We are the heart of the Canadian fruitlands where we produce great crops and very good wines. Because we have this great environmental habitat in the Niagara area, we also know whereof we speak when we mention the protection of our environment.

In the past we have viewed with alarm the pollution, the build-up of algae in Lake Erie, and when we peer over the brink of the great cataracts themselves we notice with

[Mr. Leggatt.]

some shame and disgust the foaming, brownish-yellow froth at the base of the falls. This is not a natural, sparkling, clear, bubbling froth but one which arises because of chemical pollutants and sewage. Yes, Madam Speaker, we are well aware of environmental concerns because amidst our natural beauty we also have a very heavy industrial development. We have abrasive plants, manufacturers of heavy industrial products, and giant chemical plants. We have seen clouds of chemical smoke emanating from them. We have gone out to our cars in the morning and found them covered with a film of chemical dust, and we breathe very nauseous odours from some of these plants.

My remarks are not meant to malign these industries, Madam Speaker, because we know very well what they have meant to the economic welfare and social well-being of our community. They provide us with jobs, they bring in money and make products which are useful and without which life would be much more difficult. When we speak of the trade-off which must be considered, the balance which must be reached between environmental and economic forces, Niagara people know precisely whereof we speak.

Our industries have made creditable attempts to clean up their local environments, but in many cases there is much more to be done. I do not cast blame, because if blame is to be cast for our environmental problems it does not fall upon the government alone, or individuals alone or municipalities alone. If it falls, it falls on each of us as citizens, because it is we who have reaped the benefits of our great surge toward industrial growth, toward development of our economy in our great rush toward progress. Because we did not foresee with enough clarity the dangers involved and did not realize that our resources were not limitless but limited, we are now paying the price. We are now involved in enormous expense. In spite of the costs, however, we look forward to the day when our corrective measures will have cleaned up the mistakes and messes left in the wake of our earlier development.

It is from the base that I have just established that I now project my remarks specifically to Bill C-25, a bill, to protect human health and the environment. I am greatly taken with the preventive nature of this bill—

Mr. Fraser: Oh, oh!

Mr. Young:—by the screening process that it would set up. The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) coughs. I listened very intently to his remarks and those of the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt), Madam Speaker.

Mr. Fraser: Read the bill.

Mr. Young: I have read the bill.

Mr. Fraser: Read it again.

Mr. Young: The hon. member for Vancouver South dwelt upon one word this evening. Throughout the whole of his speech he dwelt on the word "suspicion". But he did not read the whole of clause 3. He read, "Where the minister or the Minister of National Health and Welfare suspects", and stopped there. But the section does not just