

Supply

House to reply. She had to be helped out by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski).

Mr. Brisco: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe there is a Standing Order of the House which provides that reference shall not be made to the presence or absence of Members in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is correct; I am sure the speaker will take note.

Mr. Waddell: I am not making any reference to who was or was not in the House, but one would think that if there had been a major environmental spill which could be a disaster, the Minister of the Environment would be here to answer questions rather than leaving it to other Ministers.

Mr. Dick: She was there.

Mr. Waddell: She was not and you know very well she was not around. She is never around. The press wanted to interview her but she said: "*Elle met son rouge à lèvres*". She had to put her lipstick on before she could deal with the press. That is what the report was. It just shows you how much the Minister knows about—

[Translation]

Mrs. Mailly: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Gatineau on a point of order.

Mrs. Mailly: Mr. Speaker, once more, I fail to see the relevance of the Hon. Member's comments. He is now making personal comments about the conduct of a Minister who is here today and who will be able to reply to his questions. I wish the Hon. Member would stick to the subject!

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not think that is a point of order.

Mr. Waddell: The Minister can comment after my speech. The story in the press was that when they went to interview her the Minister was putting her lipstick on. I do not know, I am just repeating what was in the press. The Minister can reply. I will tell the House another thing about the Minister that we read in the press.

Mr. Dick: Down to your usual low level.

Mr. Waddell: No, it is very indicative of what kind of Minister we have. We have an incompetent Minister. She should quit. There are lots of other back-benchers from Quebec or other parts of the country who are probably quite competent and they should become the Minister. The Government should get rid of the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) very quickly, and I predict in the next Cabinet shuffle she will be gone to her just rewards in the back benches.

Mr. Nunziata: There is nothing wrong with back-benchers.

Mr. Waddell: Her reward is on the back bench, my friend.

The other thing we read about the Minister, and I will give her a chance to reply, is that she shows up at a press conference and instructs her chauffeur to leave her car running. That takes a kind of mind-set which is not an environmental mind-set.

Mrs. Mailly: Every car on the Hill is doing that.

Mr. Waddell: That is absolutely wrong. People who are environmentally conscious—

Mr. Gauthier: The Minister does it.

Mr. Waddell: The Minister has to lead. Let me deal with a couple of other points the Minister raised in the debate. One is the role of the Minister. I think the Minister has taken a completely wrong role. The Minister should be an advocate for the environment. I do not want to embarrass anyone but the Minister has just looked down to the front bench to see the Minister of the Environment in the Joe Clark Government. He was an excellent Minister and took a role of advocacy, and I refer to the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser). He was an advocate for the environment. The Opposition Liberal critic was not the Minister for a long time but he took the role of being an advocate for the environment. You do not push for cuts in your department; you fight the cuts. That is your job. You become an advocate. You are not like the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Beatty) or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson); you are an advocate for the environment. Canadians demand that.

One of the good things which has happened over the last few months is that when the Minister made those cuts to her Department, there was an outcry. Even some Conservative back-benchers woke up, heard the outcry and asked the Minister about them. That shows some good things about modern Canadian families. They are very environmentally conscious. The battle of the 1970s has been won. There is an acceptance that you do not leave your car's motor running and waste gas because of that.

Mrs. Mailly: Tell your leader that.

Mr. Waddell: You turn lights out in the house, you try and heat your house efficiently. All these little things are part of the new environmental consciousness in Canada, but the Minister does not have that consciousness and it shows in the way she runs her Department. That is why she is not going to be Minister very long.

● (1220)

I would like to return to the issue of jurisdiction. In the Minister's speech she attacked our behaviour as being reprehensive because we raised this matter with some vigour in the House of Commons. We do not apologize for that. She says it is really a provincial matter. I think that the environment is a shared jurisdiction. It is not exclusively a provincial concern,