

● (1540)

Remarks have been made today that would indicate that the leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has accomplished nothing. Some of those Hon. Members were not here, and some have very properly learned about this issue since they came here, so let me just read something to you to show you how much the attitude has changed among our friends in the U.S. The Edison Electric Institute issued what was called a perspective on acid rain in 1981. This was part of the campaign to stop the campaign, to put it bluntly. I quote:

It is not surprising to find tomatoes are acidic but most people are surprised to learn that a delicious pear can be more acidic than a tomato or that bananas and carrots are nearly as acidic. All of these have pH values well in the range of the rain that is the subject of scare headlines in the popular media.

I do not quote that to try to persuade anyone that there is any truth to it. I am reminding us all that that was common propaganda in the U.S., its Senate, Congress and administration only a few years ago. A similar statement was made by Consolidation Coal Company in 1980. It reads:

There are a host of natural as well as man-made sources of these compounds (sulphates and nitrates) including lightning, volcanoes, sea spray and the organic decay of vegetation.

I do not quote that just to have some shallow amusement with the hacks and flacks who were paid hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars to grind out that kind of unintellectual, specious and wretchedly foolish nonsense. I have said all those things where it was appropriate, to audiences in the U.S. What I am saying to my hon. friends opposite is that for anyone in this House to pretend that something has not been accomplished is to admit to everyone how little those who criticize in that manner know about how far we had to come.

I went to the U.S. and met with Douglas Costle, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Carter. I was at what was probably the first press conference held by a Canadian in Washington on this issue. I can tell you they knew nothing about it. They barely knew where the Adirondacks were, let alone that there were lakes in the Adirondacks dying as a consequence of their emissions and ours.

We said at that time to our American friends that we were not saying we were perfect. Fifty per cent of the emissions landing in Canada are from our own sources, but 50 per cent are from theirs. We went on to point out that 15 per cent of the emissions in the New England states were from Canada, and it was 25 per cent in the Adirondacks. With the information we have now we suspect it is perhaps higher than that, especially down the coast through to Florida. I said then on behalf of the Government of Canada, and the Right Hon. Prime Minister has repeated it over and over again during the last 18 months, that we did not go down there with clean hands.

To make a long story short, what happened? After 1980, with the best will of the then Minister of the Environment, the Hon. John Roberts, and then later the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), it was impossible to move certain people in the U.S. administration. However, it was not impos-

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sible to move people in both the Congress and the Senate from both the great and historic Parties. A great deal of movement took place. Hon. Members have properly referred to the fact that there are a number of Bills in both the Senate and the Congress, and there will be more. However, it did not just happen overnight. It happened because Canadians in this House from all Parties were able to get together and go down and talk to Americans as friends, not as enemies. We were able to meet privately with both Republicans and Democrats and speak with dignity and friendship about a North American problem. That is why we made the progress we made.

The Hon. Member for Davenport will remember that in this House from 1980 on, after the defeat of the Government in which I served, there was a bipartisan approach in this Chamber on acid rain. He knows full well, and I am looking right at him and watching him smile, that there were plenty of times when we were in opposition that we went pretty easy because we did not want to put him, as the Minister responsible, in a position that would make it difficult to deal with those people we knew we had to deal with in the U.S. I do not want to turn on some of my friends in this Chamber who, I know, are as concerned about acid rain as I am, such as the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling). No one can put out more words in one minute, minute after minute, 10 minutes after 10 minutes, hour after hour, about the scourge of acid rain than he can.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fraser: He has the honour presently to head the Subcommittee on Acid Rain. Neither do I want to say of my opposition friends that they do not care, because I know they do. However, someone has to say this. It does not do any good, as an Hon. Member did the other day, to go after our Prime Minister in this House and say that he should have the guts to tell his phoney friend in the White House, mumble, mumble, mumble. It does not help. They may think it makes them feel better, but I have gone down there and debated with U.S. Congressmen and Senators and I have been doing it for a number of years. I have spoken in front of some of the most prestigious environmental and conservation groups in the U.S. I can tell you this: Attack the President of the U.S. in the U.S. and most of the time you are not going to win friends. We have to remember that we are dealing with the Government of the United States.

It is one thing for us to say, and everybody has said the same thing today, that we need an accord or agreement between Canada and the U.S. to end this dreadful business. Goodness' gracious, look at what the Prime Minister said, and I quote Carol Goar from *The Toronto Star*:

Mulroney stressed he would not give up his acid rain crusade until the United States did agree to emission controls, but he gave no indication how soon or how he would press his case. "This is a front-burner issue," was all he would say. "It is not going to go away until it's solved."

In the name of heaven, what more do you want our Prime Minister to do? We have now an admission by the President of the U.S. and his Cabinet that we have a problem. It is a transboundary problem caused by emissions. We have a com-