

Supply

da's Ocean Playground. Those days are dying because of what is happening to those waters.

Last summer, on one of the few days when I had a chance to spend some time at this house, I came out early in the morning to look at the harbour in front of my house and I saw, washing up with the tide, milk cartons, garbage and the detritus of every day life in our over-packaged, garbage-choked society.

Our hon. colleague from Windsor—St. Clair talk about the ad with the aboriginal North American with the tear running down his face because of the damage to the environment. That is a very moving advertisement, I agree.

• (1600)

The one I was reminded of is one that is equally familiar to many Canadians. That was one for which a former CBC broadcaster, Stanley Burke, did the voice over. You saw the earth, garbage being poured on the earth, garbage being thrown at the earth, and I think the final visual was a cigar butt being put out on the side of the globe. I remember that ad from when I was a university student which, in spite of my youthful appearance, was not yesterday.

The knowledge that the protection of the environment has to be and must be the A-1 priority for government's world-wide is not new. It is not something that was born in the minds of politicians and governments yesterday. It certainly is not something born in the minds of only Canadians, but of people world-wide.

The environmental movement has been a moving force on our earth for many years. In the last couple of years many involved in the environmental movement began to feel a greater sense of accomplishment, purpose and enthusiasm because suddenly we realized that politicians, elected officials and governments recognized the fact that environmental questions were of major concern.

The framework of the government's discussion on the environment is a blow to the sense of light, purpose, accomplishment and hope. We do not need a framework for discussion. That is fine. It is all very well and good. It is printed on recycled paper, which we applaud. But, what we need is action. We do not need to discuss any longer. We know what the problems are. We know what

we have to do. We know what is necessary to stop poisoning our lakes, rivers and oceans.

We know what is necessary to end acid rain. We know what is necessary to stop oil spills. We have the answers. Environmentalists have told us time and again that we also have the technology. What the framework for discussion on the environment manifests to all Canadians today is the lack of political will.

I see my colleague and my friend from Cumberland—Colchester has come into the House. I know he would agree with me because just two weeks ago I drove through his beautiful riding of Cumberland—Colchester with the wonderful rolling hills and waterways and the beautiful Bay of Fundy. But, the garbage is rolling up on the beaches in Cumberland county, just as it is rolling up on the beaches of Halifax county, just as it is rolling up on the beautiful beaches within the riding of the member for South Shore, the member for Halifax West and the member for Annapolis Valley—Hants.

The Conservative members from the province of Nova Scotia know what pollution, over-packaging, acid rain and oil spills are doing to what was once a pristine environment in the province of Nova Scotia. We were given this land to nurture us and to nurture our children. What we are doing by refusing to create the political will that will preserve this land is committing long-term suicide for ourselves and for future generations. When the planet is laid waste, if we do not take action now, today in 1990, there will be no one else to blame but the men and women who sat in the House today and proceeded to do nothing more than discuss.

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to follow my colleague, an outstanding spokesperson from the maritimes, who has expressed herself most eloquently on this question. I would like to know from her what kind of readjustment schedules will be necessary in her region as it move towards more sustainable growth in developing alternate uses of fuel, alternate methods of local and indigenous economic development.

How can it be possible when the government is cutting back on regional programs? How can it be possible and what kind of problems are going to be faced when this paper asks you to meet this challenge with talk, talk and no action. I would like to hear from you, Madam Member, through the Chair, exactly how you are going