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THE ENVIRONMENT

Combating Greenhouse Gas Emissions— Use of the Environmental Protection Act

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

THE SENATE

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COMBATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS— USE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

[*Translation*]

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

We all know that the Conservatives' supposed green revolution is nothing but smoke and mirrors. What other explanation could there be for the fact that, less than nine months ago, the Prime Minister stated that he did not recognize the supposed existence of greenhouse gases? Why are the Conservatives saying that the Liberals did nothing, when they are recycling several of our energy programs? The government has the means to act immediately. Why, then, does it not use the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to set limits immediately on major polluters?

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)): Honourable senators, the Prime Minister said no such thing. We are part of a party that had a

Prime Minister who was recently given the award as the greenest Prime Minister in history.

As the Prime Minister said when he was doing his year-end interviews, clearly the Canadian public wanted more attention paid to how environmental issues are handled. He has taken action.

The government had been working on several plans throughout the summer and fall. It is pretty well acknowledged that this time last year — and it was not just the case of our government, but all political parties, and the polls show it — environment was not an issue that was the top of the minds of the Canadian public. It has since become so, which is good.

This government is committed to taking action. All of us want clean air to breath and clean water to drink; and we want to know that when we buy products to clean our homes or to eat that they are as free of toxins as possible. It is not a partisan issue; it is something we do for all Canadians, no matter what their political stripe.

I am happy with the initiatives that the Prime Minister, Minister Baird and Minister Lund have taken thus far. As was pointed out as recently as today in an editorial in *The Toronto Star*, the previous government talked about it but did nothing.