

*Leave of Absence**Tuesday, March 25, 1997***SENATE***Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAYERS**[MR. PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, leave of absence from today's sitting has been granted to Sen. Philip Marshall, Sen. Selwyn John and Sen. Rev. Daniel Teelucksingh.

**SENATORS' APPOINTMENTS**

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, I have received the following communication from His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago:

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON,  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ Arthur N. R. Robinson

President

TO: MRS. NIRUPA OUDIT

WHEREAS Senator Philip A. F. Marshall is incapable of performing his functions as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON, President as aforesaid, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 40(2)(c) and section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, NIRUPA OUDIT, to be temporarily a Member of the Senate, with immediate effect and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Philip Marshall.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 24th day of March 1997."

**Mr. President:** I have received another communication from His Excellency's office:

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON,  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ Arthur N. R. Robinson  
President

TO: MR. DENNIS NANCOO

WHEREAS Senator Selwyn John is incapable of performing his functions as a Senator by reason of illness:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON, President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, DENNIS NANCOO, to be temporarily a Member of the Senate, with immediate effect and continuing during the period of illness of the said Senator Selwyn John.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of  
the President of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago at the office of  
the President, St Ann's, this 25th day  
of March, 1997."

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES (RESOLUTIONS)**

**Mr. President:** I have received the following communication from the Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives:

"March 13, 1997

Sen. The Hon. Ganace Ramdial  
President of the Senate  
Parliament  
Red House  
Port of Spain.

Dear Mr. President,

RESOLUTION-JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Please be advised that at a sitting held on Friday March 7, 1997 the House of Representatives agreed to the following resolution:

Whereas the Senate has agreed that a committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Green Paper on Integrity Legislation and to submit recommendations to Parliament thereon;

And whereas this Joint Select Committee was authorized to adopt as part of its records all the work done by the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider the said matter in the last session;

Be it resolved that this House appoint the following six Members to sit with an equal number from the Senate on the Joint Select Committee:

Mr. Mervyn Assam, MP  
 Miss Pamela Nicholson, MP  
 Mr. Harry Partap, MP  
 Mr. Manohar Ramsaran, MP  
 Mr. Kenneth Valley, MP  
 Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP

The resolution is forwarded for the attention of the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Hector McClean, MP  
 Speaker.”

**Mr. President:** I have also received other communication as follows:

“March 13, 1997

Sen. The Hon. Ganace Ramdial  
 President of the Senate  
 Parliament  
 Red House  
 Port of Spain

Dear Mr. President,

RESOLUTION—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Please be advised that at a sitting held on Friday March 7, 1997 the House of Representatives agreed to the following resolution:

*Joint Select Committees (Resolutions)*  
[MR. PRESIDENT]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

Whereas the Senate has agreed that a Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the 17th Annual Report of the Ombudsman and to make recommendations for a most effective machinery for the office of the Ombudsman;

And whereas this Joint Select Committee was authorized to adopt as part of its records all the work done by the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider the said matter in the last session:

Be it resolved that this House appoint the following six Members to sit with an equal number from the Senate on the Joint Select Committee:

Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, MP  
Mr. Harry Partap, MP  
Mr. Chandresh Sharma, MP  
Mr. Razack Ali, MP  
Mr. Barendra Sinanan, MP  
Mr. Martin Joseph, MP

The resolution is forwarded for the attention of the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Hon. Hector McClean, MP  
Speaker.”

“March 13, 1997

Sen. The Hon. Ganace Ramdial  
President of the Senate  
Parliament  
Red House  
Port of Spain

Dear Mr. President,

RESOLUTION—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Please be advised that at a sitting held on Friday March 7, 1997 the House of Representatives agreed to the following resolution:

Whereas the Senate has agreed that a Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Working Paper on Equal Opportunity and to submit recommendations to Parliament thereon;

And whereas this Joint Select Committee was authorized to adopt as part of its records all the work done by the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider the said matter in the last session:

Be it resolved that this House appoint the following six Members to sit with an equal number from the Senate on the Joint Select Committee:

Mr. John Humphrey, MP  
 Mr. Trevor Sudama, MP  
 Mr. Chandresh Sharma, MP  
 Dr. Fuad Khan, MP  
 Mr. Jarrette Narine, MP  
 Mr. Roger Boynes, MP

The resolution is forwarded for the attention of the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Hon. Hector McClean, MP  
 Speaker.”

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Wade Mark):** Mr. President, in accordance with Standing Order 25, I seek your leave and the leave of the Senate to dispense with notice in respect of the motion for the nomination of Members of the Senate, to join with Members of the House.

Mr. President, at the appropriate stage I shall seek leave of this honourable Senate to dispense with notice in accordance with Standing Order 25 to appoint Members of this honourable Senate to join with Members of the House of Representatives.

#### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

*Sen. Nirupa Oudit and Sen. Dennis Nancoo took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law.*

*Petitions*

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

**1.40 p.m.**

**PETITIONS**

**Catholic Religious Education Development Institute**

**Sen. Philip Hamel-Smith:** Mr. President, I wish to present a petition on behalf of the members of the Catholic Religious Education Development Institute of the Chancery, Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Road, Port of Spain.

I ask that the Clerk be permitted to read the petition and that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

*Petition read.*

*Question put and agreed to,* That the promoters be allowed to proceed.

**Mount Beulah Evangelical Baptist Church**

**Sen. Penelope Beckles:** Mr. President, I wish to present a petition on behalf of the members of the Mt. Beulah Evangelical Baptist Church of No. 48 De Gannes Lane, Siparia.

I now ask that the Clerk be permitted to read the petition and that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

*Petition read.*

*Question put and agreed to,* That the promoters be allowed to proceed.

**ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) (AMDT.) BILL**

Bill to amend the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act, Chap. 25:50 [*The Minister of Local Government*]; read the first time.

*Motion made,* That the next stage be taken at the next sitting of the Senate. [*Hon. W. Mark*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

**MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMDT.) BILL**

Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50 [*The Minister of Works and Transport*]; read the first time.

*Motion made,* That the next stage be taken at the next sitting of the Senate. [*Hon. W. Mark*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

**PREMIER VESTING BILL**

*Question put and agreed to*, That a bill to vest of the undertaking in Trinidad and Tobago of Premier Oil plc formerly known as Premier Consolidated Oilfields PLC, a company incorporated in Scotland, in Premier Oilfields of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, a company incorporated in Trinidad and Tobago, be now read the first time.

*Bill accordingly read the first time.*

**1.50 p.m.**

**ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Wade Mark):** Mr. President, in accordance with Standing Order 25, I seek leave of the Senate to dispense with a notice in respect of a motion for the nomination and appointment of Members of the Senate to join with Members of the House of Representatives to form three Joint Select Committees as announced earlier in the proceedings.

*Agreed to.*

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES  
(APPOINTMENTS)**

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Wade Mark):** Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Members of this honourable Senate be nominated to serve on the three Joint Select Committees in response to the Motions passed in the House of Representatives:

**Equal Opportunity Legislation  
(Working Paper)**

Sen. Wade Mark  
Sen. Dr. Daphne Phillip  
Sen. Carol Cuffy-Dowlath  
Sen. Penelope Beckles  
Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand  
Sen. Dr. Eric St. Cyr

**Ombudsman's Report  
(Seventeenth)**

Sen. Philip Hamel-Smith  
Sen. Nizam Baksh  
Sen. Andrew Gabriel  
Sen. Penelope Beckles  
Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny

**Integrity Legislation  
(Green Paper)**

Sen. The Hon. Finbar Gangar  
Sen. Vimala Tota-Maharaj  
Sen. Selwyn John  
Sen. Nafeesa Mohammed  
Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand  
Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny

*Question put and agreed to.*

**ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

**The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Wade Mark):** Mr. President, today being “Private Member’s Day”, I seek leave of the Senate to deal with item No. 2 under “Government Business” on the Supplemental Order Paper at this stage of the proceedings before moving to “Private Business”.

*Agreed to.*

**COMPANIES (AMDT.) BILL**

**House of Representatives Amendments**

**The Minister of Finance and Minister of Tourism (Sen. The Hon. Brian Kuei Tung):** Mr. President, I beg to move,

That the House of Representatives amendments to the Companies (Amdt.) Bill listed in the appendix be now considered.

*Question proposed.*



*Question put and agreed to.*

*Clause 14(c).*

*House of Representatives amendment read as follows:*

“Delete the words ‘Part VI’ and substitute the words ‘Part IV’.”

**Sen. Kuei Tung:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate doth agree with the House of Representatives in the said amendment.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Clause 56.*

*House of Representatives amendment read as follows:*

“Delete the word ‘articles’ and substitute the word ‘bye-laws’.”

**Sen. Kuei Tung:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate doth agree with the House of Representatives in the said amendment.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

[Third Day]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [March 6, 1997]*

*Question again proposed.*

*Whereas* the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has adopted sustainable development as a national goal; and

*Whereas* sustainable development aims at meeting current and future needs of citizens while minimizing negative environmental impacts; and

*Whereas* there continues to be widespread practice of environmentally dangerous activities nationally, especially pollution of both built and natural environments, prejudicial to the health and wealth of present and future generations; and

*Whereas* the work of the Environmental Management Authority has had no demonstrable positive influence on the solution of major environmental pollution problems;

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. PROF. KENNY]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

*Be it resolved* that Government make a full statement to this Senate on its policy for prompt and effective management of the general pollution problem;

*Be it resolved* that Government invoke section 5 of the Environmental Management Act of 1995 and direct the Authority both generally and specifically to concentrate its efforts in the area of environmental pollution.

*Question again proposed.*

**2.00 p.m.**

**The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Finbar Gangar):** Mr. President, as I rise to make my contribution, I compliment Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny for his public spiritedness in bringing this particular Motion before this honourable Senate.

However, there seems to be a slight misconception or misunderstanding with respect to how the environmental management is handled under this particular administration. I take the opportunity to clarify the working relationship between the various Government ministries and the Environmental Management Authority in the matter of pollution control in particular, and environmental management in general.

As has been the case with other governmental agencies, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Environmental Management Authority with regard to the monitoring, control and clean up of pollutants arising from petroleum operations. What this means is that the ministry and other such agencies functions in the field as an agency which is practically involved in monitoring the environmental performance of the petroleum industry. The Environmental Management Authority's role, therefore, revolves around the creation of policy, legislation, the dissemination of information and acting as a consultative body on environmental matters. I am sure, my distinguished colleague the hon. Minister of Planning and Development, will fully define the roles and functions of the Environmental Management Authority when he makes his contribution later on in the debate on this particular Motion.

We are all aware of the importance of the energy sector to this country in terms of economic growth and development. As a side effect of that the energy sector, by its inherent nature, also is the greatest potential contributor to harmful impacts on the environment. We in the ministry recognize that environmental

degradation ranging from air pollution, marine pollution, deforestation and global warming is increasingly drawing attention, and rightly so, from national and international communities. In large part this has resulted from the growing awareness of the linkages between economic activities and the environment, and the desire to ensure that economic policies take due account of environmental effects.

It stands to reason that if proper account is not taken of the harmful side effects of many industrial activities, over-consumption and depreciation of environmental assets will occur, thereby creating a serious potential threat to the sustainability of the local ecosystem. I assure this honourable House that this Government is acutely aware of the effects which our industrialization thrust will have on the environment and, given the existence of these threats, the Government is of the view that it cannot be ignored. Therefore, the challenge to the Government is two-fold. Firstly, to minimize possible adverse effects of industrial development on the environment and secondly, to structure environmental policies so that they do not impair the country's industrialization thrust.

What is called for now is a new partnership among the Government, business and the greater society. This approach is based upon the recognition that economic growth and environmental protection are inextricably linked and that the quality of present and future life rests on meeting human needs without destroying the environment upon which all life depends.

A commonly held view is that protecting the environment and business profits are at odds with each other. However, in the increasingly environmentally conscious global arena, many companies are becoming more ecologically efficient. Moreover, stipulations by lending agencies and insurance bodies require strict adherence to environmental role, tougher regulations and a greater sense of corporate responsibility.

Mr. President, the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, in his role as administrator of the energy sector, has focussed on environmental management as a key and major activity. Notwithstanding the importance of the sector to the economy of the country, it is clear that participants in the industry must recognize the need for adhering to strict environmental policies and they must actively and thoughtfully engage in charting a positive environmental course.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, continues to promote as its basic policy the sustainable

*Environmental Pollution*  
[HON. F. GANGAR]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

development of the energy sector. This policy embraces the full range of activities in the sector: petroleum exploration, production, refining and marketing of oil and petroleum products.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries achieved its objective with respect to the development of the petroleum sector by regulating petroleum exploitation and ensuring that operations are conducted safely with due concern for human health and minimal impact on the environment. Additionally, the ministry has assumed the role of initiator and co-ordinator of spill prevention and emergency response planning in Trinidad and Tobago. It does so by encouraging the industries and the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard to join in efforts towards achieving better preparedness against oil-spill emergencies through the body known as the National Oil-Spill Contingency Plan. This plan is intended to delineate responsibilities for the operational response to significant oil-spills and thus minimizing or preventing damage to the land and marine environment.

The main objective of the plan is to ensure a timeliness and efficacy of response to potentially disastrous oil-spill incidents. In addition to this plan, Trinidad and Tobago has entered into two regional oil-spill agreements. The first is the Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela Bilateral Oil-Spill Contingency Plan which has afforded the national plan the opportunity to achieve the setting up of a database of fingerprints for indigenous crudes produced by both Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela; the exchange of oil-spill handling technology and co-operation in the development of a sensitivity map of coastal Trinidad and Tobago. The other agreement in place is the Subregional Oil-Spill Contingency Plan for the wider Caribbean.

This plan was renamed in 1992 as the Caribbean Islands Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation Plan. In addition to these arrangements, the Government has acceded to a number of major international maritime organizations' conventions which deal specifically with the protection of the marine environment against oil pollution.

What I have just outlined exposes a three-prong attack to dealing with oil-spill contingency on a national, regional and international level. The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries is involved at all levels and is committed to continuing its efforts in all these areas.

Mr. President, another major area of focus of the ministry in the field of environmental management, namely, the environmental monitoring programme is overseen by the Inspectorate Division of the ministry. The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries monitors environmental quality in the energy sector

including the following: all land and marine operations, the refineries at Pointe-a-Pierre and Point Fortin, petrochemical plants at Point Lisas, gas stations and any other energy-related activity. The monitoring programme is conducted by the Inspectorate Division through investigations of all oil-spill and chemical discharge accidents. This encompasses site visits and the subsequent proffering by the ministry of recommendations to minimize the recurrence of such incidents along with ensuring that a proper clean-up exercise is indeed pursued.

### **2.10 p.m.**

There are regular inspections of petroleum insulation and surrounding areas including petroleum-producing platforms, drilling and work-over rigs, gathering stations, rivers and coastal areas, including beaches. The monthly sampling of effluents of oil and petrochemical facilities are performed at strategic points where waste water enters public waterways. The samples are analyzed by CARIRI to check for levels of oil, grease, ammonia and pH among others. Variants from allowable limits are communicated to the respective companies to effect corrective measures.

Supplementing the efforts of the Inspectorate Division of the ministry are the efforts of companies involved in the energy sector. Many of the companies involved in this sector have embarked on numerous proactive measures to look after the environmental aspect from their side of the operations. These include the employment of full-time environmental managers and support staff; the development of environmental, monitoring and control systems; voluntary waste disposal programmes; internal laboratory monitoring of plants and effluents; installation of enhanced environmental monitoring equipment; environmental impact assessment programmes for major projects; internal environmental audits and involvement in special committees.

This wide array of activities is in part a reflection of the ministry's efforts with respect to opening the consciousness of all participants in the energy sector and the need to recognize that protection and nurturing of the environment is to everyone's benefit. Technical personnel of the ministry have been involved in the creation of many standards as they relate to authentication of the suitability of chemicals proposed to be used in the energy sector, with respect to the residual effect on the environment of oil and grease limits. The ministry has established the threshold for oil and grease limits in effluent discharges and limits for certain chemicals in liquid, gaseous and particulate effluent discharges from petrochemical plants.

Another major area where the ministry has set industrial guidelines is in the area of environmental impact assessment reports. The ministry has prepared

*Environmental Pollution*  
[HON. F. GANGAR]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

environmental impact assessment terms of reference to guide companies operating in the country. Additionally, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, as a member of the committee chaired by Town and Country Planning, assists in the evaluation of the environmental impact documents submitted by companies seeking approval for new plants and projects.

Environmental impact assessment documents have been submitted and considered in respect of the following projects: the Atlantic LNG Project at Point Fortin, Arcadian O3 and O4 plants at Point Lisas, Farmlands Ammonia plant, Trinidad and Tobago Methanol II plant, Savonetta Multi-Pier No. 4 and the Ispat DRI plant. Further, the ministry also reviews environmental impact assessments for other offshore works such as the conduct of seismic surveys, laying of pipelines and platform installations.

Another initiative which the Government—through the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries—is working on is the removal of lead from gasoline. This is seen as another definite step towards our goal of sustainable development and making the environment cleaner. In March, 1996, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries was designated by Government as a national focal point for the participation in a hemispheric programme, for the phasing out of lead in gasoline arising out of the Summit of the Americas in 1994.

In carrying out its mandate a committee has been established to oversee the programme. This committee comprises representatives from the Environmental Management Authority, Petrotrin, the National Petroleum Marketing Company, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and several other governmental organizations. While the target date for the total phase-out of lead in gasoline has been tentatively set for 2005, serious consideration is now being given to achieving this objective by the turn of the century. It is an ambitious goal, but this Government is of the view that too much time has already been wasted on rhetoric and, the time for action is now. The time is now for positive action to reverse the trend of damage to the environment. I am advised that with the completion of the small MTB plant in Petrotrin refinery towards the end of May, the availability of unleaded gasoline in this country would be significantly improved.

Another area in which the Government is focussing its effort with respect to cleaning the environment is in the realm of alternative energy, also called renewal energy or clean energy. Good progress has been made with the compressed natural gas project. To date, 13 service stations are capable of providing CNG. We know there are problems associated with these stations and significant progress is being

made in trying to alleviate the suffering of the customers. To date, approximately 19,500 vehicles have converted to this clean-burning fuel. The Government intends to continue with this project as greater use of CNG as a vehicular fuel would yield positive gains for the ecology. To this end, the ministry has recently completed a position paper on CNG which outlines the current status and future scenarios for the continued use of CNG.

The body of environmental activities under the purview of the ministry is obviously vast and speaks volumes for the technical and professional capability contained within this ministry. Such a wide range of skills is becoming more difficult to maintain, bearing in mind the constraints within which the Government operates. However, in light of the fact that the Government recognizes the critical roles to be played in the energy sector by the ministry, it has embarked upon an ambitious plan to strengthen the ministry and take steps to retain the services of those dedicated and hardworking professionals, especially those who are concerned with the environmental aspects of the sector.

I would now make a few remarks regarding the Oil and Water Board which, among other things, was set up to deal with the complaints of pollution on land due to oil-mining operations. This ordinance under which the Board was originally set up was repealed by section 39 of the Petroleum Act, except insofar as the ordinance related to petroleum. The Petroleum Act, in addition, declared that the provisions of the said Oil and Water Board Ordinance continue in effect until repealed completely by regulations to be made under section 29 of the Act. However, no regulations were enacted over the last 20 years and the board ceased to function. This has resulted in a situation where those persons who made pollution claims and were dissatisfied with the compensation offered by the alleged polluters were unable to access the courts. In the intervening period the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has been called upon to arbitrate the settlement of compensation disputes between petroleum operators and the claimants. The Government is currently addressing this problem by having legislation drafted to provide the mechanism to replace the Oil and Water Board and perform complementary functions.

On a macro policy level, the Government recognizes that problems related to the production and consumption of energy are not consigned to national boundaries and efforts to control them must be seen in this light. The ministry would continue to interface with regional and international organizations and work in collaboration with the Environmental Management Authority to facilitate proper

*Environmental Pollution*  
[HON. F. GANGAR]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

management of the environment. Legislation would be developed to regulate the expansion of industrial activity to limit environmental degradation.

It is important that in the programme for sustainable development of industry, appropriate environmental protection programmes be put in place to minimize any negative effects such developments might have on the environment. This Government is quite aware that in the planning, design and operation of sectoral projects, the Environmental Management Authority needs to be firmly institutionalized and implemented. The state should perform its regulatory role in this regard.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries plays a pivotal role in environmental management in the energy sector. The ministry ensures that while it encourages increased levels of exploration and production activities, operations must be carried out in an environmentally responsible manner. It is clear that this goal highlights the fact that difficult trade-offs would arise, forcing the Government to weight the short run against the long term, as well as certain economic objectives against preservation of the environment.

**2.20 p.m.**

Mr. President, I assure this honourable Senate that this Government will never shirk its responsibility to protect the environment and that this objective will be given a sufficiently high profile to ensure adequate adoption of environmentally-friendly policies by participants in industry. The ministry is hopeful that with improvements in technology, systems, practices and the seeking of Imperial Service Order certification by many companies, the goal of an environmentally-responsible development of our energy resources into the 21st Century will become a reality.

As a member of the Cabinet, I feel a sense of personal responsibility to the nation with regard to the issue of conservation of the ecology. I give the assurance that the ministry has put in place systems and procedures to ensure that the environment and industry can in fact co-exist harmoniously.

I thank you.

**Sen. Prof. John Spence:** Mr. President, I think we all ought to be grateful to Sen. Prof. Kenny for initiating this discussion on matters to do with the environment. I think that we are all very conscious of the short-term immediate dangers that an incorrect approach to the environment can give and also the long-term effects.



When the draft of this bill was first put out for public comment, I was one of those private individuals who commented. I also came before the committee which was preparing the bill. One of my problems at that time was whether the authority would have enough clout to deal with the separate ministries. It seems to me that what the bill was trying to do—and ended up doing—was to combine two really separate functions. One function was pollution control, which is a major function, and the other function was co-ordination. Now, I thought it was settled that in this Act the authority would be given both functions, so I was a little bit surprised—perhaps I misunderstood him—to hear the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries refer to the authority as a consultative body. He seemed to be suggesting that its main function was to advise, make policy and then be available for consultation.

If one looks at the Act, this is far from being the case. In section 16, amongst the functions of the Authority, are these:

- “(h) take all appropriate action for the prevention and control of pollution and conservation of the environment...;
- (j) perform such other functions as are prescribed.”

If we look at sections 62 to 71, which are the sections under “Compliance and Enforcement”, we see that indeed the authority does have some very real powers, and whereas it may also be available for consultation and be a policy-making body, it certainly has the power to implement these functions with respect to controlling pollution and looking after the environment generally.

So I think it is really a major issue that we need to discuss here. I hope that when the hon. Minister of Planning and Development makes his contribution we may be able to address it further. It is certainly not the case in my reading of the Act and my involvement in discussions leading up to the passing of the bill, that this was to be a body which would only be there as a consultative body. The approach of the hon. Minister really goes back to one of my fears when the bill was originally being discussed. This was precisely the point which I made to the committee, namely, how would this authority be able to ensure that other ministries act. It seems to me that this is still an issue.

It seems to me that there are three general areas that one might discuss with respect to the environment and I would like to emphasize some points in these three areas—not to repeat what has already been said or anticipate what Sen. Prof. Kenny would say in his winding up, but to underscore one or two points which I think we must continually bear in mind.

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. PROF. SPENCE]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

The general area of pollution has clearly been identified and is one which needs to be dealt with immediately. Most of the pollution that we are concerned about also involves health hazards, and it seems to me a very great pity that we have not had the attendance of the hon. Minister of Health when this Motion is being discussed. The emphasis that the Motion gives to pollution clearly directs us toward health hazards. Prof. Kenny has mentioned some of these and we are no doubt aware of many others.

These pollution issues can no doubt be corrected, so that they are rather urgent issues. I suppose there are some pollutants which would have very long-lasting effects and, therefore, might not be easily correctable. By and large, if we take the right approach we can correct them, but there may be a cost, both in preventing them from occurring and in cleaning them up after they have occurred. Our past history is that we have not been very forthcoming in correcting the pollution problems that we have, either by way of stopping those that continually occur, or cleaning up those that have already occurred. Sen. Prof. Kenny has pointed to one that is obvious to anyone who drives along the road and experiences the fumes from the exhausts of vehicles. It seems to me that by the stroke of a pen, by increasing the price of diesel above that of gasoline, we could get rid of the pollution that occurs from the diesel fumes. There may be other effects, but it seems to me that is one.

With respect to substances like lead, as Sen. Prof. Kenny has pointed out, we still have not done anything about the tremendous health hazard posed by the fact that lead has been deposited in various parts of the country without any care to the effects on the population.

Certainly, I would have to say that Sen. Prof. Kenny is right in drawing our attention to the immediate health hazard with respect to environmental pollution. There is one that I would mention, which may be a bit insidious, and that is, we really do not have any means of disposing of hazardous chemicals. I face this problem at the university where in some of our research work we use chemicals that need careful disposal and, indeed, there is no agency in Trinidad and Tobago to which one can go that has the equipment, facilities, or even the knowledge of how to dispose of these hazardous chemicals. Certainly, this is something that we need to address very urgently. In addition to the more obvious ones, there are the more insidious ones of hazardous chemicals which are being produced, and even with the best will in the world of the persons who are using them, we do not have the wherewithal for their disposal.

The effects of agricultural chemicals, again, is one which we have talked about over the years—pesticide residues in our vegetables—but do nothing about because we do not monitor the residues and we are not really sure of the effects of these pesticides.

**2.30 p.m.**

Recently, on a morning television programme, I was quite surprised to hear one of our strong advocates of various things to do with consumerism—one of our more militant ladies—say that the water we drink is safe because some tests were being done. Sen. Prof. Kenny has pointed out—and I hope he emphasizes the point again in his winding-up—that first of all, some of the tests being done are not in compliance with the World Health Organization's standards.

Secondly, while the water may be bacteriologically safe where enough chlorine is placed in the water to kill everything—one could often see this when one turns on a tap—there is no regular testing being done for heavy metals. In fact, there may be pesticides, for that matter, in the drinking water of which we are not aware and which may be dangerous to our health. I was very surprised to hear this lady, who is usually quite militant about things like this, say that the water is safe. I, certainly, do not have her confidence with respect to dangerous chemicals that may be in the water.

On a more general basis, Mr. President, while it is true that the Motion does zero in on pollution, I think the background allows us to have some discussion on wider environmental issues. Perhaps, some of the issues that may not be quite as pressing from the point of view of health but which, nevertheless, we need to constantly keep in mind, are those issues which I would define as affecting the quality of life. These include things that are irritants, such as noise pollution. In fact, noise pollution may be more than an irritant. It may sometimes be dangerous to one's health.

Then there is the question of inhaling dangerous substances. There was the strange situation recently by protesters around Arima, which seems to have been successful, because the annoying smell is no longer there, at least for the moment. However, who were arrested, Mr. President? It seems to be a strange situation when the perpetrators of the nuisance were not arrested. It was perfectly obvious to the police officers in the stations in that vicinity that there was this problem. As I said, the perpetrators did not get arrested but when the citizens protested—quite legitimately—they were arrested. It does seem ironic that things should happen this

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. PROF. SPENCE]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

way. These other issues may not be quite as pressing as the immediate health hazards but would, nevertheless, affect our quality of life. However, as individuals, we seem powerless to do anything about it.

A few days ago in Hilo at Trincity Mall a lady stopped me and said, "Are you the person who is talking about the environment?" I said, "I do, but Prof. Kenny is the one dealing with it presently." She said, "Because I have a noise situation next door and it is driving me crazy. I do not know what to do about it." I said, "Well, try the Environmental Management Authority." *[Laughter]* Mr. President, individuals are completely powerless to deal with these situations and it is affecting one's quality of life. There are situations which, the only thing one could do is to move one's house—if one could afford to do so—to address the problem.

Then there are the aesthetic issues on which, I think, Sen. Prof. Ramchand touched in his contribution. He asked: Why have we not had the National Heritage Act proclaimed? Some of the issues, while they are short-term, may not be recoverable in the long-term. If there is a historic building that has been destroyed, it is gone forever, there is nothing that could be done about it. In the short-term we may be put out by an ugly building and might say, that is affecting our quality of life because the aesthetics are poor. We may also be losing our historic sites and buildings which, perhaps, are more in the area of culture and aesthetics.

Mr. President, one cannot understand why we do not act. We know about these things. It is not that we are completely ignorant and we do not understand them. We go to the extent of setting up committees, having discussions and consultations, drafting and enacting legislation and not proclaiming them. What is wrong with us, Mr. President? It is strange the way we go about our business. I am certainly not, in this instance, trying to criticize the Government only, I am criticizing all of us. Perhaps if we agitated enough the Government would have acted by now. These matters are affecting our quality of life and they must surely be addressed. There are certainly a number of persons in our population who are willing to assist.

Mr. President, I really do not want to go on too long but the third area which I would briefly mention is that we could get ourselves thinking about the action we must take. This is the most we could do in a debate of this sort, think about the long-term effect we may have on the environment by some of the actions that we take. Sen. Prof. Kenny in the Preamble to the Motion mentioned sustainable development. In order to comment on this issue I want to read from a letter I received from the President of the Orchid Society. It is something which has been

seen in the newspapers recently and it is most alarming, in addition to all the other issues to do with the natural environment that we need to address. We seem to be accelerating the degradation of our environment. With your permission, Mr. President, I would read this letter which I received yesterday:

“March 24, 1997

Senator  
The Honourable John Spence  
C/O Cocoa Research  
University of the West Indies  
St. Augustine Campus.

Dear Senator Spence

Re: Uncontrolled logging of the Northern Range

Recent visits by members of the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society to a number of areas in the Northern Range have revealed that logging is fast becoming out of hand. They have observed damage to forests, access roads, streams and river beds and obviously to the other plant species. The situation has been described as chaotic.

During January members visiting Heights of Guanapo and Cumaca saw damage to the water courses both from tractors and logs being pulled through the stream beds as well as tree tops and branches being dumped into the water courses causing severe blockages of the streams. Access roads were also being destroyed by inappropriate cutting of trees.

In February, a field trip to Heights of Guanapo allowed a large number of Society members to view first hand the disastrous effects of the logger's actions as the activity in the area had increased. Reports were made of the complete destruction of a portion of the Blanchisseuse - Paria trail by tractors pulling logs, turning a scenic seaside trail into a morass of mud and damaged vegetation.”

In fact, there was a letter in the newspapers about the damage to that trail from someone who is not a member of that society. I continue to quote:

“Not only has the forest been destroyed, but the use of this trail for eco tourism has been severely hampered.”

We say we want tourists here, Mr. President. The quote continues:

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. PROF. SPENCE]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

“In March, reports were received of logging in the Madamas forest, with logs being floated out to sea. Members have also noted cutting of trees for collection of orchids and other epiphytes along the Morne Cocoa Road near the Diego Martin end in the area of the Scott Horse Farm. Further along Morne Cocoa Road in the area of La Paille Hill tractors are seen removing logs. The sudden urgency of these activities appears to indicate that they must be illegal.

Since the objectives of the Society include the preservation of local orchid species, we regard this frightening destruction of the forests, waterways as leading to the extinction of many species of both plants and animals and as a giant step towards the extinction of much of the flora and fauna of Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition, we are very concerned about the need for preservation of the watersheds of Trinidad and Tobago, seriously threatened by encroachment on and destruction of forests.

In many instances the residents of the affected areas have indicated that the logging is taking place without the permission of private landowners but, for obvious reasons they are afraid to confront the culprits. In other cases State Lands are being denuded, but the relevant agencies appear powerless to intervene.

We expect that you agree that such ‘development’ is not a sustainable use of forest and water resources. We implore you on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, to bring the attention of the appropriate authorities to their responsibility for preventing this continuing rape of our environment.

Thank you for your continued concern in matters of environmental protection.

Yours truly,

/s/ Sharon Laurent

President”

Mr. President, it is quite easy to see the destruction of the forest on the western areas of the Northern Range, and we have seen this for many years. To replace the forest on those hills and mountains is almost impossible. Many years ago—about 20 to 25 years ago, I sat on a committee called The Committee for the Reforestation of the Northern Range. The money for this committee came from the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank. The rate at which the

replanting was taking place would have meant that it would have taken 200 years to touch what was then denuded but, of course, since then more has been denuded. It is really quite an impossible task. What is really alarming is that it is accelerating. However, at least we have the eastern areas of the Northern Range relatively intact. The areas which are now being denuded, in fact, belong to that area.

**2.40 p.m.**

We talk about building a road along the north coast between Blanchisseuse and Toco. Mr. President, can you imagine the problem that would occur with respect to the denudation of that part of the Northern Range if we, indeed, went through with that plan? We seriously talk about this as opening up eco-tourism. Hell, if you want to have eco-tourists, do not open that road, for heaven's sake, because very soon you will have lost any possibility of attracting any tourists who are interested in eco-tourism at all.

I have just been handed a note on a *Newsday*, October 28, 1996, with the headlines:

“T&T loses 175,000 acres of forest.”

Mr. President, it is true that we need development and, certainly, I was one who, in discussing the issue of the Nariva Swamp, felt that it should be discussed in the context of what development needed to take place in the agricultural sector. Such development which would ensure that the environment is also protected.

I am certainly not one of those persons feeling extremely respectful to discussing the environment that we should do nothing by way of development in order to protect it. Clearly, we have to develop, but a lot of the things we are talking about really have nothing to do with development of the country. We have had a forestry action plan which was developed in the early 1990s. We have done absolutely nothing to implement that forestry action plan, so, to say that we are interested in forestry development, and that is why we are going and cutting logs out of the Northern Range, of course, is not correct.

We are not interested in the development of our forestry because we have done nothing to put it forward. If we really want to develop our forestry, we should look at sustainable systems which have been set out in this report, because all that would happen when these are cut out and not replaced is that in a short time, sure those persons who have taken them out now would have made profits, and sure

*Environmental Pollution**Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

[SEN. PROF. SPENCE]

we would have had some development, because we would have used the logs, if we did not ship them abroad to some other country, which we also do incidentally, but what of the future?

Certainly, one aspect of the environment we have to think about, in addition to the major pollution effects which are affecting our health today, is about our children and grandchildren; the quality of life of our grandchildren. What are we leaving for them? These are things which we can correct. There are some issues, such as global warming, we have very little control over. There is very little we as a country could do about it. We can take some action to protect ourselves from the effects. I am not saying we should not do what we can, but what we can do is very little with respect to the overall effects of global warming. That is what we get excited about, and we just look at the Northern Range being denuded week after week, month after month, and somehow we cannot act. Why can we not act?.

Certainly, Mr. President, if we are to listen to the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries who has pointed out to us that what we want is action—yes, that is what we want—let us see how we could get this action. Certainly, I do not think one way of getting that action is to downplay or reduce the clout that the Environmental Management Authority might have. What we need to ensure is that it can act. In the case of some ministries we can get full support.

In fact, some ministries may be ahead of the authority with respect to pollution control and protection of the environment in the long term, but other ministries may not be quite so active and you must have some agency in the country that can overrule and insist that individual ministries do what they have to do. It may not be that the ministries do not want to act. It may not be that the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources which has control of forestry, is not aware. I am sure they are aware. But, somehow, we have not been giving them the tools, we have not given them the money. Perhaps it is the fault of the Minister of Finance and Minister of Tourism. I do not know, but certainly it is something at which we have to look.

The cost of re-establishing those forests is prohibitive. Let us, at least, try to stop them from being cut down. Mr. President, I agree entirely with Sen. Prof. Kenny's point about the immediate effect of pollution. I think we need to have strong action. I do not think persuasion is going to work. I think it needs to be strong action and, indeed, which is paid for, not only by the general taxpayers, but in major part by the industries which are causing the pollution.



The hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries has kindly returned to me a document which I lent him on the restoration of quarry sites in the Valencia area. This is a study in which both Sen. Prof. Kenny and myself were involved in 1993. It looks like a moonscape if you were to fly over that hill. No action yet. I hope there will be some action with respect to forestry, but of course, it is much more difficult now because now all of us taxpayers have to pay for it. What should have happened is that any mining rights given to individuals should have included a clause which made them pay for the restoration of the site after they use it, but that was not done. Not this Government, the previous government. That was not done. And so now, ordinary taxpayers have to find the resources to correct that problem.

On the score of general town and country planning and looking to the future of land use, we are still very confused in our land use. I have heard recently that there is some proposal to turn Non Pareil Estate into some sort of eco-tourism attraction. Now, if you look at that report, you will find that the suggestion here is that the minor quarry sites could, in fact, be restored in a way to make them very attractive both for local tours and foreign tours, including recreational fishing and so forth. These areas, of course, are not suitable for agriculture but Non Pareil is. So, we will continue to use the good agricultural lands for other purposes and not use the land not suitable for agriculture for those purposes. For example, I hear also that the village to be removed because the airport has to be expanded is to be put down in Orange Grove, the last little bit of agricultural land we have in the country.

The university has just been told that the 200 acres in Orange Grove which had been given for its farm will be no longer available because the village is going to be put down there. Yet, if you go a little bit further north, in Maloney, you have absolutely terrible soil which nothing can grow in, but you cannot put the village there. These things are forever. The foothills of the Northern Range are in concrete. I have invited three Ministers of Housing to drive along the Priority Bus Route and see the last little bit of green spaces being put into concrete and all of that is good agricultural land. We will lose all of that and our grandchildren cannot move those houses. They are there for good; forever.

Mr. President, in addition to the immediate urgent problems concerning pollution which we have to deal with—in addition to the aesthetic problems which I am sure we need to deal with if we are to improve our quality of life—there are these long-term problems which we keep avoiding, not addressing, and in fact, reducing the quality of life for our grandchildren. Why do we do that?

Thank you Mr. President.

**Sen. Mahadeo Jagmohan:** Mr. President, and hon. Members, I am indeed happy to be afforded the opportunity to make a brief intervention on the Motion moved by Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny. It is my view that Sen. Prof. Kenny did extremely well in presenting this Motion. I commence by stating that the environment belongs to everyone. It is the natural heritage of everyone, therefore, we should all strive to keep the environment as the common heritage of all living creatures and keep its protection above the realm of party politics and Government and Opposition. Let us all work together in constantly protecting the environment. Our environment is the living medium through which living organisms thrive. World environment encompasses various aspects such as social, cultural, as well as the physical surroundings, the atmosphere, biosphere, eco-systems or nature as a whole.

**2.50 p.m.**

Man's environment is the extensive meaning of pollution. It may be properly said to include everything between the ozone layer and the earth's surface. According to Einstein and I quote: "The environment is everything that is not me." It is the whole natural system on which we depend, the air we breathe, the earth which feeds us, the rivers and seas that also give us certain kinds of food, and water. The atmosphere around our planet makes life possible for all the living things which share the environment, yet it is limited. We have one earth, sometimes called Mother Earth. We may be destroying it by the indiscriminate handling of the environment.

Mr. President, we are undoubtedly, quickly climbing the hill of destruction. We have not yet reached the apex, but we are not far from that point.

**Mr. President:** Sen. Jagmohan, I trust that you will not be reading your whole contribution.

**Sen. M. Jagmohan:** No, Sir.

**Mr. President:** So far, you have been reading totally.

**Sen. M. Jagmohan:** Thank you, Sir. It is now imperative to determine whether we are taking steps to protect the environment or not. The entire environment is affected by pollution. We must devise practical means and solutions to fight the pollution which is facing us square in the face. It will depend on our efforts. Some industries are genuinely making efforts to control pollution in Trinidad and Tobago, while others are not. Some industries dump harmful waste on land and sea, and spew poisonous waste in the atmosphere continuously.

In Trinidad and Tobago, we have very caring people who protect the environment by maintaining a high standard of sanitation in the work place, as well as around their homes, and the recreation facilities which they enjoy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Land, and Marine Resources over the years kept a trained staff that did well to protect the environment. They also did a great deal to protect wild life in Trinidad and Tobago. Private institutions such as the Asa Wright Nature Centre and the Wild Fowl Trust have also done well in protecting the environment by their long-term plan, and their trained staff. The efforts of Carib Glassworks in purchasing bottles for recycling show a great deal of care for the environment, directly and indirectly, because of the controlling of materials such as bottles and aluminium containers. It is important in maintaining the environment that we avoid the depletion of natural resources. There are individuals who earn their living by collecting bottles and other products to be sold to Carib Glassworks and other firms as well.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Education, should be supported in their bid to become more involved in controlling pollution. Apart from the excellent instructions the school children are being given by their teachers, children should be taken outdoors and taught much more about the environment and pollution. The children in the primary and secondary school systems should be taught how to plant and nurture trees and generally give serious thought to pollution. With the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, trees and flowers could be planted with the involvement of children, thus ensuring that we are building a nation of young men and women who would care for the environment.

The pollution that is taking place—in a sense unabated—needs the effort of all, as I said before. The control of pollution cannot wait on a target date for implementation of sustainable programmes, but should begin speedily and right away. A National Tree Planting Week could be implemented during 1997. I humbly suggest that active politicians stay out of such a programme, and teachers, children, and NGOs should be the main players in that exercise.

Mr. President, it is well known, statistics have brought it out clearly, that in the world—take the whole world scene—about 20 acres of valuable rain forests are destroyed every minute, but in our own situation in Trinidad and Tobago we do have very valuable forests being destroyed regularly on a continuous basis, and it does not appear as though there is any real plan to avoid the same.

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. JAGMOHAN]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

If an effort is made to control the waterways from the kind of pollution to which the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries referred, it really sounds good, but I just want to name for him two small rivers: the Rio Negro River and the Cunapo Channel. I advise him that we have been noticing these rivers many moons ago. They are very useful for gardeners and farmers, but these two rivers are not escaping oil pollution at all, and some thought should be given to controlling that.

**3.00 p.m.**

We have not heard about this neither have we spoken about it very often, but pollution of the mind is very important. While we might be willing to have our minds control our thoughts and not worry about pollution of the mind, the body suffers.

Mr. President, in all the religious houses of the world, some kind of burning of various substances takes place, which is very good—nothing is wrong with that practice. The main reason we believe this is done is to purify the atmosphere. In our country, all the religious institutions do participate in some kind of exercise, burning of incense or what have you. There is a very strong Hindu ceremony called Agnihotra or Havan in which several kinds of herbs are used with ghee and experienced performers conduct that ceremony. When the smoke, or whatever, is emitted from the ceremony and gets into the atmosphere, evaporation takes place, rain falls and it improves the atmosphere a great deal. Perhaps that practice and exercise could be encouraged.

A number of scientists have done research and have written a lot about the fact that ghee is the greatest fighter of poison. The hospitals do not use it as the first medicine, although elsewhere that is done. It is said, if one ingests any kind of poison this would help. Perhaps all the religious institutions that burn different things to purify the atmosphere, could do so for us to benefit.

The excessive use of weedkillers and similar chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago is taking a very serious toll on the environment. Some thought should be given by the appropriate authority, to control the use of weedicides, pesticides and other spraying materials which gardeners use without any control or technical or professional advice. The end result is that all these spraying materials get into the waterways and other places. The long term effect would be dangerous to the environment.

Thank you.

**Sen. Nirupa Oudit:** Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleagues in supporting this very excellent Motion, so eloquently presented by Prof. Julian Kenny.

I applaud that principle of the Motion which I will take the liberty to summarize and focus on the important life and earth threatening issues, as far as the environment is concerned, which are not necessarily, the popular issues.

We live in a very small land mass in Trinidad and Tobago, less than 2000 square miles of land. We find ourselves moving forward, very rapidly, into a highly industrialized future. Our natural resources naturally attract energy-intensive, fairly high-risk industry. My comments have to do with how we manage the risk that is presented, by getting involved as a country with these industries. I was very interested to learn from Sen. The Hon. Finbar Gangar, about the number of steps that the Government has taken to ensure that this risk is managed.

I am going to read into the debate a part of a report. I quote from a book by the name of *Chemicals and the Environment* which was specially issued in preparation for the Brazil summit on the environment in 1992. It speaks about development in an industrial region in Brazil, in a similar country to Trinidad and Tobago. I quote:

"...the developmentalist mentality that had taken hold of government policy in the 1950s had implanted first a state-owned oil refinery, then a steel mill, fertiliser factories, and finally petrochemicals plants."

This sounds very similar to the kind of scenario that is building here in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The problem began four years later, in 1963, when the state-owned steel plant started up its first unit. This was a rolling mill..."

The report went on to state that the problems began to come to light when the plight of the dwellers in a nearby town became public knowledge. The name of the town was Vila Parisi.

"Vila Parisi was the shanty town that grew up, squeezed between the steel plant, the fertiliser units and a cement factory. Particular attention was drawn by a doctor's accusation that the incidence of anencephalia (a disease causing babies to be born without brains) was abnormally high in the region."

The fact is that people died. Babies were born deformed. Some people died as a result of accidents and at the end of the day, the environmental agency was set up in Brazil to look after the problems which were created as a result of the

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. OUDIT]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

industrial development thrust in the small area near to Sao Paulo. It had a very similar size, infrastructure and facilities to Trinidad and Tobago. This resulted in a five-year plan being prepared which cost US \$450 million to implement and clean up.

The message that I bring to this debate is that clean-ups are very expensive in terms of what it cost the country, companies, governments involved, and the damage to human resources, where there is the phenomenon of people being born with different problems, and becoming ill. It is very important—because our country is starting very late in the day with our environmental thrust—that we learn from the experiences of these countries and not make the same mistakes that they did. We should work to ensure that if we are moving forward in an industrialized environment—as we must for jobs and the future of the country—that we do so with the full knowledge of what we are doing.

It is significant that we empower our agencies that have been set up to look after this sort of activity with the tools and the manpower to get the job done and to monitor their work to ensure that they are, indeed, getting the job done. At the end of the day, this would result in no significant dollar value loss to the country and we are certainly pursuing dollar value gain. As a country, let us do this without incurring human loss later on.

I support this Motion one hundred per cent. I say thank you to Sen. Prof. Kenny for bringing it to this House.

### **3.10 p.m.**

**Sen. Dr. Eric St. Cyr:** Mr. President, there are a few very large policy issues which in my view, this Government, after the settling-down period of just over a year, should be actively addressing. I know that they have started with, perhaps, the number one issue—addressing the problem of crime. As we can see from the evidence, things usually get worse before they get better because we usually are on a downward trend and that has to be arrested before we come back up.

I was struck by a report in yesterday's *Independent* which said that our country has been listed in *The Economist*, along with Colombia and Venezuela *et cetera*, as having one of the highest per capita murder rates. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the report is that our rate went from just over two per hundred thousand in the 1970s and 1980s, to well over 12 in the 1980s and 1990s. This is something that we really have to take as a big issue and put our heads together to turn this major scourge around.

The environment, Mr. President, is perhaps next in order of importance. I want to congratulate Sen. Prof. Kenny for his Motion. A number of new words and concepts are not so new at all. Quite often they reflect a lack of depth in scholarship or ignorance of the history of human affairs. If we take this concept of sustainable development, the classical economist knew that “goods” and “bads” usually come as joint outputs of the productive system, so that we pollute the air with our transport system, for example. When we go to our nuclear sources of energy, we produce some massive problems of waste disposal in that area. Even in the taking in of food, there is imposed on our bodies a problem of getting rid of waste. But the old economists also knew that land, which is defined as the original and indestructible properties of the soil, was bequeathed to this generation by our forefathers and held in trust for the generations to come. We have a mandate not only to dress it—that is to care it—but also to keep it, namely to protect it from destruction.

In 1970, I happened to have been visiting a university in the centre of the United States of America—Southern Illinois University—where I met a 78-year-old very wise professor called R. Buckminster Fuller. In 1970, students everywhere were on the rampage but he was really the darling of the young students and many of the young people flocked to his classes built around what he called, the world game. This was based on a very simple tenet that the environment if correctly used, is designed to heal and restore itself. I dare say, the Club of Rome in one of its celebrated studies, links the phenomenon of environmental destruction with some of the less honourable traits in man.

Looking at the environment, rivers purify themselves every so many miles if you use them properly, and if we use natural cycles in the environment—what animals give out as waste namely carbon dioxide, plants take in and, in turn, give out oxygen. In other words, I am saying that the problem is not so much pollution as much as it is widespread ignorance of how these systems work, mixed with greed and irresponsibility both on the part of individuals and on the part of those in authority. For example, it is most irresponsible of an individual to throw a cigarette butt in a canefield or to dump an old refrigerator in a watercourse. But it is also quite irresponsible of those in authority to put laws on the books clearly thought out, and not insist that they be obeyed. There is a classic conundrum in addressing environmental problems. Who should clean up the mess? Is it the one who made it? Well he does not care. Or should it be the one who is offended by it? He did not create it. Morally, it should be the former though in practical terms, it usually falls to the one offended by it.

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. DR. ST. CYR]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

The private enterprise system which we firmly embrace is notoriously weak in handling problems of this nature. As we said earlier on, production systems usually generate goods and incur costs. We referred to them as “goods” and “bads”. What happens in the private enterprise system, is that private entrepreneurs capture the benefits—the goods—and convert those into money, which they can pocket and simply pass on to society the costs or negative externalities, as it is called. The root cause of this is that the market system is very poor in correctly measuring true net output of any productive system. Examples abound. Today, we have with most large industrial projects, a requirement of an environmental impact analysis. This should assist us in making a better calculation of what the true output is; what the real costs are; and ensuring that those who would reap the benefits, properly pay the full cost of the production system.

All of this, Mr. President, I say by way of introduction because where I want to join the debate and to give my full support to the motion, is that this country is poised for a major investment boom. The hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries referred to many of the things his ministry is doing and, perhaps, that is one of the ministries which should be most active since most of the activities would be triggered in that direction and hopefully, we would manage this boom more wisely and not allow the boom in the corporate sector to kill off the rest of the economy, which is one of the things we did badly twenty years ago. Every such major industrial boom usually brings a deterioration in the environment and in the quality of life generally. So we do have, immediately on hand, a problem in the offing.

**3.20 p.m.**

My understanding of Sen. Prof. Kenny's Motion is that as conceived now, the Environmental Management Authority is a general conceptual organism and what he is calling on us to do is to give it some focus as we operationalize the general nice things that we like to see come out from their activities. He is saying let us start in a practical way and pick out nuisance pollution number one and deal with that and when we are finished with that we take a second one, and gradually we stem the tide—we get an awareness in the society of what should be done and how and, perhaps, very much later, we can look at those nice issues like global warming.

Mr. President with these brief remarks, I lend my support to the Motion and I look forward with eager interest to hear the hon. Minister responsible for the environment as he tells us what he has planned for us over the next several years.  
*[Desk thumping]*



**Sen. Diana Mahabir-Wyatt:** Mr. President, it is redundant to say that I support the Motion that Sen. Prof. Kenny has brought before us. In fact, I cannot imagine anybody not supporting this particular Motion because it is so important to our lives, to our future, not just to our present. However, there are a couple of questions which come to mind. I do not want to repeat the debate that has gone on so far but I would like to pick up on one point that Sen. Prof. Spence mentioned that I do not think we focussed enough on, and that is the concept of sustainable development.

The preamble to the Motion speaks of policies of sustainable development which I think governments, past and present, have adopted. In fact, if I am not mistaken, the *Medium Term Development Plan*, which is the very impressive document we looked at earlier this year in the budget debate, incorporates the thinking behind the whole idea of sustainable development. I am hoping that during the course of his contribution the hon. Minister of Planning and Development would give us an idea of what his Government intends to do in terms of the practical application of the concepts and policies of sustainable development.

Sen. Oudit, a little earlier on, referred to the 1992 conference in Brazil. As I recall, the government, on behalf of the country, presented a paper at that conference and very much committed itself to sustainable development. My problem is that I think we have made many public statements nationally and internationally and we have signed international instruments, unless I am mistaken, dealing with sustainable development, but when it comes to practical applications, we have seen very few results when it comes to the environment.

I am grateful, I think, to Sen. Prof. Kenny for bringing up the whole question of the environment. I say, I think, because I am not entirely sure. I have nightmares everytime Sen. Prof. Kenny gets up to speak—not when he is speaking, but after he speaks. In fact, I get to the point—and quite rightly, I gather from Sen. Prof. Kenny, justifiably—where I am afraid to drink the water and breathe the air.

I am not sure what this Government or any government can do to help in the question of breathing the air when it comes to the Sahara dust, unless you are considering filtering it out or moving the Sahara. However, there are obviously other air pollutants which we can deal with, and given the peculiar geological formation of Trinidad and Tobago or whatever the geographical formation is that causes the Sahara dust to come down on us—I do not know how to quote Robin Maharaj correctly, but certain convection zones, which means that precipitation

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. MAHABIR-WYATT]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

does seem to converge on Trinidad and Tobago and pollutants that are already here do not lift up as quickly as we hope they would, so that what Sen. Dr. St. Cyr said—nature cleans itself after a while —takes place.

I think nature does clean itself. Rivers clean themselves every few miles, air cleans itself because we get breezes and winds, but there are certain geological and geographical formations which do cause pollutants to stay in areas and this is really affecting our health; it is affecting the cost of our health services.

I am sorry the Minister of Health is not here because this whole question of the environment is very much a health matter. I am sure, and I think there are others who would like to hear the Minister and his views in relation to the question of the environment.

Certainly, the economic and the industrial policies of this Government are affecting the question of pollution and I am thinking of one as simple as something which has happened in the last three or four months which has to do with pollution as a result of car emissions.

I do not know how often the hon. President travelled during rush hours between Chaguanas and Port of Spain within the last four or five months, but the time it takes to travel from Chaguanas to Port of Spain has increased by almost half an hour or more simply because of the number of cars on the road. The influx of second-hand cars has increased and, therefore, it takes longer to get into Port of Spain and there are more emissions going into the air from more vehicles and this is what we are all breathing. I think this is something we have to take into consideration when we are talking about sustainable development.

It is frightening that the air and our waters are being polluted. When I heard the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries talk about the Environmental Management Authority which is also referred to in this Motion—and I hope I am quoting him correctly—saying that it was set up to create policy legislation and to be a consultative body, he did not seem to envisage it as being a monitoring body or a policing body, which casts considerable fear in my heart, which is already in a state of total terror as a result of listening to Sen. Prof. Kenny.

As I recall, Mr. President, when the Bill to set up the Environmental Management Authority was presented in this honourable Senate one of the purposes which was put before us and assented to, was that the Environmental Management Authority was to be the key instrument which the Ministry of Planning and Development was going to rely upon to improve the effectiveness of

the environment and environmental management—which I think we all wanted—and should be part of sustainable development and to improve the "system-wide co-ordination to accomplish rationalization and promote public awareness and responsible, individual and corporate practices."

**3.30 p.m.**

That is consistent with the hon. Minister's statement that the Environmental Management Authority has to create policy and advise on legislation. But in clause 16(1) of the Bill the general functions of the Authority are laid out and if one goes through them, there are two main things. One has to do with recommending national environmental policies, and the other one is not only to develop, but to implement policies and programmes for the effective management and use of the environment. For example, clause 16(h) says:

- “(h) take all appropriate actions for the prevention and control of pollution and conservation of the environment;
- (j) perform such other functions as are prescribed;”

I think of the activities of the Environmental Management Authority—which is one of the reasons it has attracted such negative criticism from various organizations in the country—the Bill was assented to on March 7, 1994 and it specifically states at clause 18(1):

“...the Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than two years after the commencement of this Act or such other time as the Minister may direct by Order, recommendation for a comprehensive National Environmental Policy...”

This would indicate to me, unless the Minister has otherwise ordered—and I would be grateful if he would tell us if he has done so—that that policy is due this month. In fact, I think we only have another five days left in which it can be issued. I think we are all waiting for this with a considerable amount of interest. Not only that, but there is a whole clause in this Bill—which is now an Act—which deals with the implementation, compliance and enforcement of the Act. I would like to emphasize the word, enforcement. It is not just to set up policy and to let the country know what industries and private citizens should be doing about pollution of the environment, but also to enforce these policies.

We do not have to worry about the energy-related industries, the larger industries, because they will make these sorts of agreements with the Ministry or the Environmental Management Authority similar to the ones about which the

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. MAHABIR-WYATT]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

Minister has spoken. They are in the public view; people are watching them; but then there are hundreds of small organizations and people, such as the illegal loggers which had just been referred to by Sen. Prof. Spence. With your permission I would like to read the rest of the article to which Sen. Prof. Spence referred. This is from the *Newsday* of October 28, 1996:

“Trinidad and Tobago lost a third of its forest reserves between 1990 and 1991, which fell from 122,000 to just 77,000 hectares.”

This is in one year.

“...the total forested area fell from 301,000 to 230,000 hectares, a loss of 71,000 hectares or 175,000 acres of forest.”

So in one single year the country lost a quarter of its forests. This was between 1990 and 1991, and if the letter which Sen. Prof. Spence has just read out to us is any indication, in the last year we probably lost another quarter.

We are rapidly denuding the country of forests, so that we are going to end up looking, not just like the landscape of the moon that Sen. Prof. Spence referred to so poetically when he was talking about what has happened as a result of quarrying, but like Haiti, where there are no forests and it is impossible to re-forest. Having lost our rain forests which are the habitation of numerous species—not just orchids and birds—and which also provide us with a sort of natural shield that allows precipitation to sink into the ground and gives us water wells and rivers, I think we are in serious trouble.

We are not seeing the policing aspect of environment control being mentioned at all, either by the EMA or, as far as I have been able to ascertain, by any policy statement which has been made recently. So I am looking forward to what the Minister has to say about this Government’s policy in relation to the environment and I hope that they would cover this.

There are two other things I would like to ask, in closing, Mr. President, and that is: Could we have some information about what has happened to the Environmental Trust Fund which was established under this legislation? The Environmental Trust Fund was set up, amongst other things, to fund national environmental management objectives and it includes, in clause 72:

- (c) emergency response activities to address actual or potential threats to human health or the environment, including remediation or restoration of environmentally degraded sites,...

which would, I assume, refer to the forests,

“...containment of any wastes, hazardous substances or other environmentally dangerous conditions...”

which is a matter of great concern to all of us,

“...or other appropriate precautionary measures...”

Now, the Environmental Trust Fund was set up under the legislation which has been operating for two years and I wonder if we could find out what has happened to this Trust Fund. Also, under the legislation, there is provision for the establishment of an Environmental Commission which would be a superior court of record. This is where the teeth come in.

The Environmental Commission, under clause 81(5) has jurisdiction to hear all kinds of things—appeals from decisions from the authority and also complaints brought by members of the public which are known as the direct private party action provision. It also empowers the commission to take action on certain of its dictates made under this Act for enforcement of policies which it has set out.

I am just wondering if this commission has been set up. Perhaps because we do not have the policies and regulations which would have come out two years after the enactment of this Act, it has not yet had a chance to make any such orders, but the direct private party action provisions would certainly go a long way in alleviating some of the worries of the members of the public when it comes to pollution, such as noise, physical, environmental, land and water and the problems of deforestation.

I am hoping that some time during the course of this debate, before it is wound up, that the Minister would be able to give us an idea as to what is happening in relation to setting up those bodies which are established under this Act so that we will see some action. This Government has been very good, to my mind, in actually taking action on matters which have lapsed for long periods of time. I am appalled when I hear what Sen. Prof. Spence has to say about recommendations which have been made 20, 15, 12, 10 years ago. I have been listening to Sen. Prof. Spence make speeches on agriculture policy and environmentally-related issues since 1989 or 1988 in this honourable Senate. It breaks my heart, quite frankly, to hear him have to go on, year after year, saying the same thing, making the same pleas and nothing happens. I am really hoping that since we have the legislative framework; we have legislation which empowers a body to take action, that we would see some action within the next year in relation to the Environmental Management Authority.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**3.40 p.m.**

**Sen. Nathaniel Moore:** Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution in this debate and I join with my colleagues in commending Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny for introducing this Motion in this honourable Senate.

Indeed, sometimes we have a very long list of things to be done and perhaps, it is in setting out a plan to have them done, that somebody comes up to cause us to rearrange our priorities. It was realized some time in the past that, indeed, attention to the environment is of paramount importance to the continuance of our comfortable existence and so, in 1995 this Act was passed in this House. The Motion does say that:

“...the work of the Environmental Management Authority has had no demonstrable positive influence on the solution of major environmental pollution problems;”

It is obvious that the mover of the Motion is not satisfied that this authority is moving with the kind of dispatch and haste necessary to arrest the problems we see existing in the environment.

Prior to that, the Motion states:

“...there continues to be widespread practice of environmentally dangerous activities nationally, especially pollution of both built and natural environments, prejudicial to the health and welfare of present and future generations;”

Indeed, Mr. President, this is no secret. The smallest child in primary school, perhaps, can tell us that very dangerous activities are taking place around us which are prejudicial to our well-being and are environmentally dangerous. I envision that when this Act really comes into force, and the bodies are set up and put to work, the authority will really be a power to be reckoned with because its authority, functions and powers are very widespread as set out in the Act.

Mr. President, very often I wonder why we look to the Government to do so many things exclusively. I am not saying that the Government should not act. I recognize that the Government has certain functions to perform in the country and that it must act, and I am not against the Motion. I agree very well with many of the sentiments already enunciated and with the spirit of the Motion, but I would focus on the responsibility of the individual in the society for a few minutes.

As I said before, the Government has an overseeing function, but as individuals we must not take advantage and think that all the actions must be taken by the

Government and its authorities to see after our well-being as far as environmental matters are concerned. I am putting it forward that we must also understand that, as individuals, we have a role to play and that we must take a personal interest in the environment to see that we have a healthy environment in which to live and leave for our children and future generations.

Mr. President, I would spend a few minutes here on the idea of burning. I remember Sen. Jagmohan mentioned the burning of pleasant-smelling herbs and certain other ingredients to, perhaps, purify the atmosphere. Indeed, it is possible that some kind of burning can take place. Perhaps we never thought of it very seriously, but I smelt incense and so many other things being burnt but I am not sure if all of them have a purifying effect. When the idea of burning was mentioned, a certain aspect of its effect on the environment came to my mind. I thought of the hills being burnt off, destroying the forest, the environment for our fauna and some of our natural resources which we have growing and living in these areas. I sometimes look at burning as being very destructive, and careless burning of the environment is a sin against the citizens of the country.

Mr. President, if one burns fuel in the chambers of a machine as our cars—there is the fallout too, as professors often mention, the contamination of the environment by chemical fumes which are hurtful to the body—what happens is that when the fuel is burnt we get power which causes the machinery to move on, where we can have some degree of production from that burning. The burning of the hills is sometimes—at all times to me—merely destructive and we do not have any power or beneficial effect coming from that burning.

It is in this regard that I think about another type of burning, that is, the burning of cigarettes. I did not hear anyone mention it, so I thought I would just talk about it. The burning cigarette could be harmful to the people who burn it and the people inhaling what is burnt. I was looking at some information not long ago and I discovered that the burning of cigarettes in the atmosphere could have some harmful effects such as causing lung cancer in smokers. I got a note from the encyclopedia which says that 90 per cent of all primary lung cancer cases occur in people who smoke cigarettes. I do not know if everybody would agree with this, because I know there is a war between the people who are advocating the abolition of smoking in public places and the people who produce the goods.

Mr. President, I am not going into all of that, but I am saying this is the information that I was given. The point is that there are also other harmful effects. For example, cancer of the larynx and of the lip—particularly to people who

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. MOORE]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

smoke pipes. I am told that cancer of the esophagus is four or five times greater in smokers than in non-smokers.

**3.50 p.m.**

Cancer of the urinary bladder—strange enough down there—is twice as great in the smoker than in the non-smoker. Smoking also causes bronchitis, emphysema and certain types of ulcers. For example, peptic ulcer. It also visibly causes the discoloration of the teeth and other dental problems. We are told that heart diseases and circulatory impairments are 70 per cent higher in the male smoker than in the non-smoker. In women it is 200 per cent higher. We are also told that women who smoke give birth to smaller and lighter babies.

I touch on this small area to let us realize that, as individuals, we also have a responsibility, quite apart from the Government, for looking after the environment and trying to secure our own lives as well as the lives of others.

People say that somehow they have a right to smoke; it is their business and that is true, but there is a social fallout because there can be contamination of the atmosphere.

It is believed that what is called secondary smoke is almost as harmful to persons who inhale it as to those who smoke themselves. If this is so, and we recognize that, then those who smoke must take care that they do not affect others when they are enjoying themselves, if they think it is enjoyment.

I can remember when I attended primary school we only knew our head-teacher smoked because we saw the smoke rising from the office. We never saw him elsewhere. It seemed as though the urge came at times while he was in school and he would smoke in his office. If people who must really smoke keep to themselves, perhaps, the hurt would be to themselves and not the public at large. That is why the call goes out very often for the banning of smoking in public places because of the effects of secondary smoking.

This short intervention may not only serve to remind the Government of its responsibility, but also we as a people and as a country that we also have a responsibility to act, or not, accordingly, which is what is wiser in a situation in preserving our environment so that we can make it safer for ourselves and others.

Thank you.

**Sen. Dr. Eastlyn Mc Kenzie:** Mr. President, I also wholeheartedly support this Motion brought by my colleague, Sen. Prof. Julian Kenny. I begin by asking a



simple question that one often hears when one talks about the environment and certain aspects of it.

There are those who ask: Who owns the land, sea, air? To whom do the forests belong? And they themselves answer it. They belong to God, so what?

Mr. President, unless the Environmental Management Authority and the Government embrace the population to make us realize that whatever we do to the land, sea, air, the forest or whatever, will impact upon all of us, then we are going to look at it as if it is somebody else's business and not the business of the general population.

Pollution, the environment, sustainable development, have become very popular words within the last year or two, but what if the population is not really aware of what we are talking about?

Mr. President, it may surprise you to know that it is a very small part of the population which believes that these words have anything at all to do with them. It is always somebody else's business. The Government's policy will see about some things that the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries spoke about, some things that are outside the realm of the operation of the ordinary citizens. But the ordinary citizens need to know and to do and, possibly, they must also be educated not to do, as we heard Sen. Prof. Spence in his contribution make the point.

In one breath we are saying that people must become aware and not just cry out. They must take action when there are matters which affect the environment and their health. We heard of the people in Arima marching against a stench coming from a factory, but they were breaking the law and so they were arrested. There is the need to educate the population as to their rights and their legal limitations and so, I would like to make a few suggestions.

To me, there has not been as great an impact on action in health as there has been with the cholera hype because it was taken to the schools. It became as if the children were responsible for not only educating their parents, but prompting them into action against cholera. Children were like pests to their parents in the homes. You could not turn without them telling you "go and wash your hands, you did not wash your hands, properly. Yes, but I did not see you use soap." They were really like ticks because they were so well educated in the schools about cholera through films, posters, competitions, jingles and so forth.

The Environmental Management Authority should embrace the population and do not depend on the education division alone. Probably, they could use the Health

*Environmental Pollution*  
[SEN. DR. MC KENZIE]

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

Education Unit, but they should embrace the schools and do just as they did with the cholera epidemic and get the children to be a part of this whole issue.

Mr. President, in Tobago ever since the talk about the squatters, the yachties and the pollution of the sea, there have been some positive action and planning towards minimizing pollution and damaging the environment.

**4.00 p.m.**

There are some problems with regard to refuse disposal and waste from garages, such as used oil. What plans are there for the disposal of oil waste? We have to address that. There is also the problem of hotel waste. I know that many persons in the hotel industry are aware of what is happening; they are monitoring the situation and trying their best to ensure that hotels keep within the rules as far as their disposal of waste is concerned.

Many people think that those who create the problems do not live where they would inherit the effects of them. They do not live where they make the mess. We have to ensure that there is not a “don’t care attitude”—whenever the mess is made in one place, it is left there. Those persons who make the mess live in places where they can breathe clean fresh air.

We have to ensure that we educate people as to the means of disposal of their household waste. We turned away from our brown bags—which we used to burn or leave to rot—to plastic. We need to educate people as to how they must dispose of these.

There should be plans in place as to how we should get rid of our large appliances which are no longer useful. If a person is going to change his stove or refrigerator and does not know what to do with the old one, or nobody would assist that person to get rid of it, he would dump it in the river close to him. We should put mechanisms in place whereby the ordinary citizen could help himself to dispose of his/her waste.

Finally, I ask the hon. Minister whether in his winding up he would give the assurance that the Environmental Management Authority and the Government, together with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, working collaboratively, would ensure there is this type of public education. Sustainable development would not only take the form of the land and sea and that type of physical environment. We the people, our children and grandchildren should be

*Environmental Pollution*

*Tuesday, March 25, 1997*

made aware of the fact that we must help to ensure that development is sustainable and there is this type of continuity.

Thank you.

*Motion made and question proposed*, That the Senate do now adjourn to Tuesday, April 8, 1997 at 1.30 p.m. at which time we would debate the Variation of Appropriation Bill, 1996. [*Hon. W. Mark*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.05 p.m.*