

MP touches on Quebec, choppers, environment and more

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their province benefits from the system of equalization payments instituted with confederation, Mr. Reed said.

"Separation as an issue will wax and wane. Xenophobic statements attributed to that movement have hurt it. Quebeckers, like all Canadians, don't like attempts to generate prejudice," he said.

He said one of the suggestions for a Canadian millennium project is a comprehensive history of Canada. Since provinces control education, history in Canada tends to have a narrow regional focus.

Canada's impact was felt in Kyoto during the recent summit on greenhouse gases, Mr. Reed said, adding that Canada lead on producing the Multilateral Investment Agreement (MAI) which could be a precursor to a world-wide trade agreement.

Mr. Reed conceded free trade, which his party fought vigorously, has been positive for Canada. However, he insisted that the dispute resolution mechanism is largely responsible, giving Canada many more wins than losses on points of contention.

Trade issues brought the discussion around to a potential helicopter purchase.

Soon after reaching office in 1993, the Liberal government cancelled a contract signed by the Brian Mulroney Conservatives to build EH101 helicopters. Buying Canada out of the contract cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Now the government has identified a need for helicopters, largely in a search and rescue role. Mr. Reed said the EH101 program had Canada footing the bill for substantial research and development as the chopper was not yet on the production line. "At the time of the EH101 contract we had a \$42 billion deficit so the idea of spending hundreds of millions was rather imprudent," Mr. Reed pointed out.

The Halton MP also spoke of his pet environmental projects, reporting substantial progress on the ethanol and hemp programs.

"Half a billion has been spent by the private sector to build a 200 million liter ethanol plant in Chatham, Ont.," he said. Mr. Reed explained that there can be as much as 17 per cent ethanol in

gasoline without the need to change anything in the present internal combustion engine. He said the early goal is to supplement gasoline with 10 per cent ethanol.

With ethanol in gasoline, carbon monoxide emissions are reduced 30 per cent and carbon dioxide is reduced 15 per cent, according to Mr. Reed.

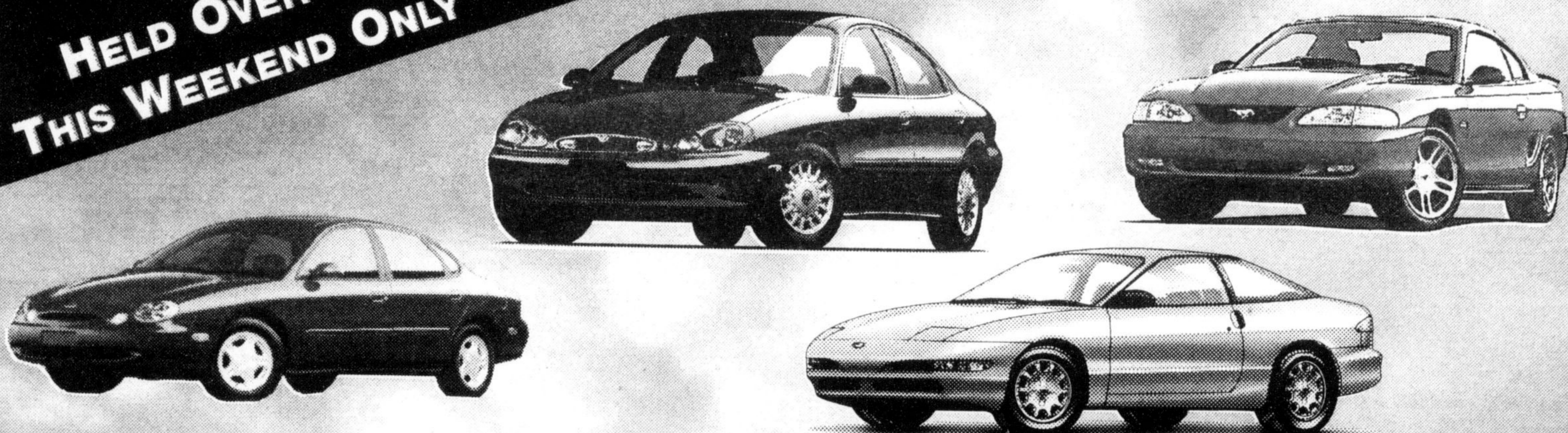
"This is a direct attack on greenhouse gases and relates directly to Kyoto. We need 10 plants the size of Chatham."

The Chatham plant will use corn as its feed stock. Ethanol can be produced by any starch feed which is convertible to fermentable sugar, he explained. The long term feed will be wood waste. In fact some pulp mills in the north have ethanol plants built into their process, he said.

"Canada produces cellulose in abundance," Mr. Reed said. "One plant produced 30 million liters from what used to be waste."

In addition there is a plan to produce a bio-diesel fuel in Saskatchewan from waste agricultural products.

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