

MP CALLS FOR GREEN BATTLE

Nottingham South MP Alan Simpson told Parliament he was fed up with the trivial subjects being discussed on the eve of the election expected this May. During a hard-hitting speech, the Labour MP said each member of the public could take his own small steps to prevent pollution and save energy.

"We need to examine the contradictions in each of our own houses," he said.

The MP criticised his Government - and opposition parties - for being too obsessed with accumulating money and trade, and having only a "dismissive interest" in our changing climate.

He said: "I would love us to say that the biggest issue that will affect the whole of our lives, and the entirety of our children's lives, is climate change, and that we want to be in dispute with each other

about which of us can tackle it most seriously and rapidly.

"We will not do that, however. The General Election will be fought on which leader is the most ugly, which party's set of policies are the most contradictory, who are the biggest bunch of scoundrels, and who can be toughest on immigrants." He called for a windfall tax on oil and gas producers, along with a change in market rules to require growing obligations, and setting up a World Environment Organisation.

Environment minister Elliot Morley said Mr Simpson had talked "powerfully", but millions were already being spent on renewable energy.