

Government Orders

Hibernia has been approved without any serious environmental assessment, a project that poses a severe risk to the existing Atlantic fishery, a project with \$2.7 billion in federal support to subsidize the delivery of oil not to Canadians but solely to the United States. Not a drop of that oil will go to Newfoundland. Not a drop of that oil will ever see the inside of a consumer's home or vehicle in this country.

The forests of every maritime province and in fact of every province in this country are in crisis from overcutting, inadequate replanting, and inadequate protection. The government and the Minister of State for Forestry produced the document that they love to hand around in British Columbia, across the prairies, throughout Ontario and in maritime Canada called *Green Ghetto*, attacking the Liberals for spending less than 10 cents out of every dollar in revenue from Canada's largest industry and largest employer and putting it back into the forests. The Minister of State for Forestry should be ashamed. They are now spending less than the Liberals did. They are spending less than 10 cents out of every dollar raised.

This is the government that is now spending more capital on forest projects outside Canada than inside Canada. That is an interesting form of largesse for the largest wood exporter in the world, the country that has 10 per cent of the world's forests. It is an interesting figure to keep in mind.

In the province of Quebec with only 1 per cent protected lands, the lowest percentage of protected lands of any zone, region, province, or territory in Canada, this government is indirectly supporting the James Bay II project without a full environmental assessment, a \$24 billion project. They have waited for two years while an assessment could have been going on, bickering back and forth with the province of Quebec about terms of reference for environmental assessment. Now we see there is only going to be an initial environmental evaluation of the infrastructure, of the roads and the airports.

As I said in the House yesterday, these could be roads which go nowhere or they could be airports in the wrong place. Any intelligent government would have an environmental assessment of the dams, the reservoirs, the areas to be flooded and the impact on the Cree, the Inuit, wild fowl, marine mammals, fish, as well as the atmospheric impacts of this project which will divert and dam five river systems.

The government hopes to claim balance of convenience in the courts somewhere down the road, have \$600 million or \$700 million spent on roads, airports, and infrastructure, and then say: "Like in the Rafferty-Alameda case by the Court of Queen's Bench economic considerations have to come ahead of the environment". This is completely contrary to Brundtland and completely contrary to the personal promises of the Prime Minister.

This massive project, the largest industrial project ever conceived in the history of North America, will proceed without Canadians knowing what kinds of incredibly horrific impacts there will be, not only on the wildlife populations, not only on the fish, not only on the aboriginal people who have lived there for 10,000 years or more, but on the atmosphere and on the climate of all of eastern North America, and this without even looking at the alternatives.

As Dr. Lovins pointed out to the committee that I sit on, simply by going to energy efficiency and conservation on the island of Montreal alone we could save more power than is produced by James Bay I.

Who is kidding whom about who the worshippers of these megaprojects are? They are the Prime Minister and the premier of Quebec. It is not the people of Quebec. It is not Canadians who will benefit from this kind of megaproject. No one will benefit from not having a proper environmental assessment of a project of this magnitude. It is a not so cunning approach.

Let us spend a moment on the Rafferty-Alameda. This was a colossal bungle. Three ministers in a row sold out of the environment: Tom McMillan, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean and now the present minister. They plead before the courts in sworn affidavits that there will be irreparable harm to the environment and then they do nothing about it. On the Oldman, in Alberta, it is almost exactly the same thing: once again a deal cut with a few Tory friends, exclude the public from any serious process, and never carry out the minister's own statutory responsibilities. The same thing happened with Rafferty.

There are \$13 billion worth of pulp mill proposals on the drawing boards, proposals to cut one-third of the entire land mass of the province of Alberta. Where is the government showing leadership in its clear constitutional sector of responsibility for water and the atmosphere?