

tion Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. It is difficult for anyone to conceive of the government as being so anxious for economic growth that it would turn its back on its own statutory responsibilities.

As if destruction of our water fowl and waterways is not enough, the problems will encompass plant life and possibly human life. Syncrude's coke burner complex and its sulphur plant will spew 287 tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere each day, apparently seven times more than would be spewed out if the plant were using the best pollution abatement material. Indeed, the sulphur dioxide discharge could be reduced to as little as 40 tons per day if the company would employ pollution abatement devices recommended by federal officials of the Department of the Environment.

As a matter of record, the consortium refused to allow federal officials to inspect their coke burner, saying that it was an innovation device developed by Esso research. The effects of heavy sulphur dioxide pollution in such a delicate sub-Arctic environment would be even more disastrous than we experienced in the Sudbury basin. What Syncrude and the other plants will be doing is creating a wasteland never before experienced by mankind. I am sure the minister is well aware of the nightmare of ecological dangers this project poses unless, of course, cabinet ministers do not speak to each other. In any case, the federal Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Sauvé) in a letter to Hon. J. Yurko, the Alberta provincial minister of the environment, raised many questions and severe warnings with regard to this project.

Let me reveal to the House the concern of the Minister of the Environment. She wrote the following letter to the Minister of the Environment of Alberta:

In response to your request dated October 10, 1973, I am enclosing 100 copies of my department's comments on the Syncrude Environmental Impact Assessment.

In the context of the incomplete information provided by Syncrude Canada Limited in the documents comprising the impact assessment, and the confidentiality of tar sands process technology, the comments presented in this report must not be considered to represent a thorough review of the subject. It does appear however, from an examination of the available information, that Syncrude has failed to appreciate the real scope of environmental concerns and has also failed to address the question of environmental protection in either a realistic or an adequate manner.

The areas of specific concern relate to the management and control of waste waters and gaseous emissions; the impact of the development of fisheries and migratory birds; the need for environmental emergency planning; and eventual rehabilitation of the site.

In view of our mutual interests in this matter from the standpoint of both... of environmental quality and legislative responsibilities incumbent upon both federal and provincial governments, I believe it is necessary for our respective departments to jointly determine what further steps are needed in order to satisfy environmental concerns. It may be necessary to meet with Syncrude at a later date in order to resolve any outstanding difficulties. I will request the Regional director of the Environmental Protection Service... to pursue discussions with your officials at the earliest possible date to further consider the specific concerns identified.

To reiterate, Syncrude's documentation is deficient in detailed information in many areas of environmental concern and we believe that there is a likelihood for major environmental damage...

Please accept my sincere thanks for this opportunity to review and comment on the Syncrude documentation.

It becomes most understandable why companies like Inco, Falconbridge and the oil companies prefer dealing

with the provincial level of government, and only that level.

I understand that the federal government and the provincial government of Alberta are almost ready to reach agreement and let Alberta go ahead and deal with the Syncrude partners. This would be a grave abdication of federal responsibility, in other words, another sell-out to the multinational corporations. Of course this should not surprise any Canadian in the least because of the recent remarks by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources as reported in the *Montreal Gazette* of February 10. Answering a question on a television program, the minister said, as reported:

—I'd have to say, of course, that this presents the classic conundrum that a decision maker always has—that there is the environmental tradeoff against the oil supply tradeoff.

Not only does this government not have a national energy policy it does not have a national environmental policy. In the face of such reactionary stopgap measures, I suggest that the minister read his energy conservation booklet for students, which says in part:

British inventor Harold Bate cooks up batches of methane gas from pig manure in a gas-digester in his backyard.

I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, when we can expect to invite Mr. Bate to install his gas-digester in front of the cabinet benches. It would probably be the most important contribution the cabinet could make to the energy crisis.

● (2020)

This is only one example in a long line of incomplete approaches to the problems facing the Canadian people. As I stated earlier, governments react to these crises in an ad hoc manner. They move from crisis to crisis. We had a housing crisis. The Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) came out with band-aid programs, trying to put plasters on the sores. We have an ongoing transportation mess. It has worsened since the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) took over.

As far as the area of taxation is concerned, the old songs are all true. We have a taxation policy which encourages corporations to take more from the economy of Canada than those who own the resources have a right to expect them to take.

**An hon. Member:** Now you are on familiar ground.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Yes, I am. That has been the experience every time we have had a Liberal or Tory government. When the people of Canada honestly thought there was an alternative to those sitting in the government benches, after a few months in office they realized that the Tories were just more of the same.

The Liberals and the Tories have given away the resources of this country. They have given away the birthright of the Canadian people for a pittance. They only look at the short-term. They wear blinkers. They do not look at the long-term results for the people of this country.

**An hon. Member:** Come to B.C.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I would love to go to B.C. That province has a fantastic government. It is finally wresting control from the small clique of multinational corporations and