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My Department also can conduct emergency resource surveys and analytical measurements of oil, as well as the measurement on site of tides, currents, waves and temperature. We ensure that adequate ship facilities are provided to all agencies involved in the emergency operations which require it. We always have a Fisheries and Oceans vessel on site wherever there is any cause or need for them to be present.

Mr. Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt the Minister who is first to respond to the Hon. Member for Skeena. We are bound, of course, in this place by rules, and there is a time limit. However, if it is the wish of the House to allow the Minister to finish, of course we can do so.

I think the Minister can continue.

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, I will leave it to the Hon. Minister of Transport to describe the form of action planned with respect to containing and ensuring vessel traffic management to protect Canadian shores from a spill of this sort. I want to assure all Canadians who are watching this debate that they can have full confidence in their Government, that the Government is prepared to respond appropriately, and that in my area of responsibility we provide the scientific and resource assessment services that are required immediately.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, and the Canadian people once again, that there is no evidence that this spill is moving toward Canadian coastal waters. There is no evidence at this time of any significant impact of this horrendous event on our own coastal species of fish, of marine mammals, and of other living things. I trust, as the days go by and as we watch these events unfold, that we will continue to have the confidence that Canadians should have in the ability of the Canadian Government to lead and to respond to protect the interests of all Canadians in such circumstances.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is a timely motion. I welcome, as do we all in our quarter of the House, the relevancy and the urgency of this debate. In particular it is an urgent question on the west coast of Canada, particularly in those waters on the west coast of northern British Columbia bordering on the Alaska Panhandle and on the sovereign State of Alaska.

I must say that we expected at the outset to hear from the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard). He was not

here. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Siddon) got up, but after listening to the Throne Speech yesterday wherein one and a half to two pages was dedicated to environmental matters, the new environmental priority, the new environmental preparedness, I think the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard) should be here to respond to this issue tonight.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): What we have is an environmental disaster of monumental proportions on a world scale, something we have never seen not only off the west coast of North America, the west coast of British Columbia, but something we have not seen since oil has been transported by sea. Because of the so-called environmental concerns of this Government, the Minister should have been here in the House of Commons. He was here this afternoon. He should have replied.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Charest: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Believe me, it is with great regret that I rise on a point of order, especially considering the fact that it is the Right Hon. the Leader of the Opposition who (Mr. Turner) is speaking at this point in time. However, I cannot honestly let go the comment that he has made on the absence of the Minister in the House when in fact the Minister will be here to speak on this very important issue and when in fact the Member, and all Members, know very well that such a remark is against the rules. I want to point out clearly and unequivocally that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard) will speak on this issue tonight in this debate.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I could respond to the intervention of the Hon. Minister. I know that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition will not take it amiss if I suggest to Hon. Members that the Hon. Minister has stated the rule. Whatever doubt anyone may have had about the concern of the Hon. Minister, it has certainly been replied to by the Minister who said that the Hon. Minister of the Environment will be in the Chamber to speak this evening. I would ask Hon. Members to remember that all of us sometimes have to be elsewhere than in the Chamber.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, we are living here, and I will say this to the Hon. Minister who could better spend his time at the Dubin inquiry—