

more commonly known as the EARP guidelines, would take place until the Canadian environmental assessment law was in place, known in this Chamber as Bill C-78.

On October 12, 1990 the Cabinet met and this agreement was violated. The 1984 guidelines were violated because Alcan Kemano II dams and diversions were exempted from environmental assessment.

My freedom of speech is violated because I have informed my constituents over many years that based on two facts; first, the June 27, 1990 House agreement, and second, the public statements of the Prime Minister, Ministers of Fisheries McGrath, Fraser, DeBané and LeBlanc, all five of whom publicly endorsed a full public inquiry and environmental assessment and review of what is known as the Kemano II or Kemano Completion Project, that there would be a full public environmental assessment and review.

This exemption of October 12 violates the ruling of the Federal Court on the Rafferty-Alameda dam. It violates the unanimous ruling of the Federal Court of Appeal on the Oldman River dam in Alberta. Now three leading federal scientists have gone public, revealing the nature of political intervention to overrule environmental concerns.

This is the same project which had to be ordered by the Supreme Court during the 1980s to release enough water to allow fish to spawn.

If agreements reached and confirmed on the floor of Parliament are without substance, and I refer to the June 27 agreement, I believe that is a violation of freedom of speech and the ability of any member, particularly an environment spokesperson in the opposition, to carry out his duties.

If the promises of four ministers of fisheries in a row, along with the promise of the present Prime Minister, are without substance, this I believe is clearly a violation of freedom of speech.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, it is hard to find any substance in the arguments of the hon. member, when you link freedom of speech to a decision that a government can by law make.

Privilege

He talks about an agreement being broken. Any person who cares to look at the facts will remember that the agreement, which the hon. member refers to, was simply that any proposed changes to the EARP guidelines order would be discussed with the special committee examining Bill C-78. That was the agreement, that if the EARP guideline order was amended, then it would go to the committee.

In this instance, the Kemano completion project guidelines order is a separate order pursuant to section 6 of the environment act and not an amendment of the EARP guidelines order.

Anyone who cares to look at this will realize that these are the facts. I submit with respect, Your Honour, in no way are the privileges of the hon. member infringed.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: The matter which the hon. member for Skeena has brought to the floor was set out very extensively in a letter from the hon. member to the Chair, for which I thank him.

I have listened very carefully to the hon. member for Skeena. I also read the letter and the material very carefully. I have listened very carefully to the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Whatever one might have to say concerning the events which the hon. member for Skeena has put forward to the House and been responded to by the hon. minister of fisheries, I cannot find that all of the events taken together, or any single one of them, meets that test of privilege which is diminishing, or prohibiting, or preventing the hon. member for Skeena from doing his duties as a member of Parliament.

Therefore I have to rule that it is not a question of privilege.

[*Translation*]

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: On September 28, 1990, the hon. member for Shefford rose on a question of privilege concerning a statement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources announcing the launch of the Hibernia Development Project, the press release of that statement and certain news reports based on the announcement. The hon. member compared this situation to the