

Government Orders

Just a couple of days ago, knowing that this legislation might well come up, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and to the Rt. Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs, and in that letter I said:

It is extremely urgent that you take steps to advise the U.S. Government that Dixon Entrance right up to 54 degrees, 40 minutes, is Canadian water and territory and that no Trident nuclear submarines can transit these waters.

The U.S. plan to construct a \$35.5 million Acoustic Measurement Facility in Behm Canal (at the north end of Back Island) would lead to substantially increased dangers to the 35,000 Canadians in the area.

There has been no risk analysis or environmental impact done on the potential threat to Canada. These must be done and I suggest you take whatever steps are necessary to halt the construction of this Trident nuclear submarine base as it poses risk to Canadian health and security. It as well turns the northwest coast—

Meaning British Columbia.

—into a direct nuclear target.

May I suggest that the most likely route for access and egress to the Behm Canal will require the direct violation of Canadian sovereignty. Lt. John Williston of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt has confirmed that there is no agreement for U.S. navy ships to use Canadian waters in the vicinity of Dixon Entrance.

The northern route along Prince of Wales Island is unlikely to be the Trident highway.

This project poses substantial risk to Canada. Far more Canadians than Americans live in the immediate zone.

I trust you will act urgently to halt this project and to advise the U.S. that no Tridents can transit Dixon Entrance.

Your prompt and favourable response is eagerly awaited.

This was delivered by hand to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who know full well that there are trial proceedings in Washington, D.C., going on right now before the Ninth Circuit Court, where American citizens, through various foundations, are trying to halt this development in the Alaska pan handle because no environmental impact studies have been done, no risk assessment has been done. We know that there are eight Tridents presently moving up and down the west coast of North America, working out of Bangor, Washington. The fact is that each of these carry at least 24 nuclear weapons. They have nuclear cores by which they operate.

If one looks simply at the number of accidents that there have been with Soviet nuclear submarines off northern Europe, Norway in particular, one can realize

that these are the kinds of measures you take in advance. You do these kinds of assessments.

I know the concerns of my constituents. We have in Masset, on Graham Island, the Island upon which my home is, we have one of the largest acoustic listening devices on planet Earth.

Mr. Edwards: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate the hon. member clarifying the relevance of what he is reading into the record and to the debate at hand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Skeena has the floor.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that my cousin from the other side of the House had not been listening somewhat more carefully to what I have been saying. If one looks at the amendment being proposed, it is to clarify the legislation. The minister, in committee, indicated an intention to use the bill for what is not stated in the bill. The minister stated an intention to make use of the space agency for military purposes, something that Canadians do not expect, accept or support.

The reason I am pointing out what is going on in relation to this government's approach to military matters is that it is allowing our airspace to be used for Cruise missile testing, for Stealth bomber training. They are promoting a part of Canada for NATO low-level flights.

What we can see here, in tying it into my own constituency, is a government doing nothing to protect Canadian sovereignty from the transit of Trident nuclear submarines through Dixon Entrance and on up into the Behm Canal. We have the existing acoustic listening device at Masset which is now a joint Canada-U.S. operation. So there would be a joint military operation there.

• (1050)

If one looks at the policies of this Conservative government, it involves the substantial militarization of the submarine areas, the surface water areas and the land base. I do not even need to touch on the fact that we are in contravention of the Helsinki Accords with the development and testing of chemical weapons at a defence research establishment in Suffield, Alberta.

If the government is not given a very precise understanding in terms of wording in legislation it will pro-