

*Government Orders*

Are these the politicians we are supposed to trust when they say the ice-out is not going to be a problem? Where are these four scientists? Why were they not peer reviewed? Are you going to go to some bum down the street because he says he is good at doing open heart surgery? Give me a break. This is crap. It is time people in this House started to stand up for the truth.

The Conservatives say this is going to bring lots of benefits to Prince Edward Island. What about the studies that have been done in P.E.I. that say it will be a net loss of \$1 billion to P.E.I.?

The member for Egmont says: "Oh, well, those people there just have concerns from the heart. They are just a little group. They do not even know what is going on". I have many relatives in P.E.I. They are not opposing this bridge concept because of concerns of the heart. They know it is a crock. There will be fewer jobs. This is corporate welfare of the very worst kind. They have come up with the proposal. I know what the sworn affidavits say. I know they were pushing this back in the early 1980s.

In 1985 three unsolicited proposals arrived here in Ottawa. People in the maritimes do not believe in Tinkerbell any more. We know that in January 1987 the project was actually put forward by Public Works Canada. It became the locomotive. It started dragging this monstrosity around the maritimes.

I have already gone through the figures and the level of inflation within the figures. I think anyone in Canada would understand that I oppose this project on good grounds. I think many people have come to realize this very wealthy group of corporate promoters plans to pin the tail on the donkey. They see the public purse as the donkey and say: "Let us pin the tail on the donkey and we will make ourselves rich forever more. It is \$42 million a year, consumer price index protected, protected against inflation forever more. In 35 years, the moment it is a rusty monster, we will just turn it back to the taxpayers of Canada".

If this were to continue as a marine ferry service it would maintain more good jobs. Last year out of 13,000 sailings only five were even delayed. This government

has been undermining the marine ferry service for years by refusing to provide new equipment, refusing to upgrade the docking facilities, refusing to do what we do in British Columbia. There we try to make tourists and passengers happy while they are waiting for a ferry. We sell them a hot dog, give them a cup of coffee, let them buy some local goods, have a few people playing guitars, give them newspapers and have a little fun.

Good grief. I remember the last time I tried to cross from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island. Treat the public decently. Give the corporation a little bit of money instead of starving it. The government has been trying to make it a self-fulfilling prophecy so people will say: "Good grief, we have to get rid of the ferry service. It is terrible. We have to have the bridge. We never realized it before, but we have to have the bridge". What a crock.

Whatever became of the tunnel? We now know it would have been cheaper. In terms of environmental impact we know that subterranean tunnels in almost all locations where they have been used are almost environmentally benign because they go below the ocean in the dry zone. Then you can shock treat the walls. You can put in lighting. You can put in breathing apparatus. If there has to be a fixed link, why was that removed from the terms of reference of the FEARO process? Why was the tunnel not reviewed? Well, we know this little cadre of government friends wanted the bridge concept. It has been corporate driven. It has been bridge-concept driven and it has been driven straight to the public taxpayer's wallet and this is a crock.

• (1710)

Mark my words. I predict the Supreme Court of Canada will come down much more harshly on this project than on the Oldman River dam. It will not be amused and in fact will be downright angry with the government after all of the legal proceedings on the Rafferty-Alameda on the Oldman and all the shenanigans in Quebec about James Bay II. It is going to be pretty damned angry to put it mildly, with due respect, with this kind of jiggy-pokery, end-running and hoax playing that has been going on from the government benches.