

*Oil Pollution*

Canada is concerned the question really is, how energetically is the government of Canada going to move? The Prime Minister told us he made this recommendation to President Nixon, but we do not know of anything in particular having been done about it since until today in the House when the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that our ambassador in Washington was pressing the matter there.

I am going to support the motion although I doubt very much whether we can refer this matter to the International Joint Commission. I assume that anything to be referred to that commission that relates to its jurisdiction must be accomplished by agreement between the two countries. Therefore, while I am going to support the motion on the basis of moral support for the necessity of urgent action being taken on the establishment of some effective control over the movement of vessels in those waters, in my opinion the passage of this motion today will be no substitute for vigorous, determined and persistent action by the government of Canada to achieve the purpose of the motion—the establishment of this kind of control in these waters.

The most charitable thing I can say to the hon. member for Fraser Valley East is that the motion or the substance of it is certainly very incomplete. We in this House do not want to rest the point with the simple passage of this motion to refer the matter to the International Joint Commission, because that in itself would probably accomplish nothing. As I understand it, what we in this House want to be associated with—at least I certainly do—is a motion that will lead to effective action being taken, a motion that will bring this government or encourage it hopefully to insist on action being taken to get agreement from the United States in respect of something effective being established.

I am not going to take more time in view of the original purpose in setting this day aside. I simply indicate that the matter is of the most profound importance. Anybody in his right mind must realize that some joint control has to be established. How anybody could forgive the laxity of this government in sitting around for years without making any serious effort to secure the establishment of a joint system of control over navigation in these waters is beyond understanding. The Prime Minister has now made a request to the President of the United States, but how anybody, particularly those on the west coast of Canada, could forgive this government for such laxity is beyond my comprehension.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, the device that is being employed by the government makes me so angry that I do not know whether I will be able to make this speech without some strain against the limitation in the vocabulary I can use. Here we have a naked attempt on the part of the government, through a government member, to pour a lot of oil on the troubled waters of the Liberal government's sagging current popularity. It is a naked and belated attempt to make political capital out of West Coast ecological tragedy. It is interesting to note that the last time we sought a reference to the Inter-

[Mr. Stanfield.]

national Joint Commission was when the government was in some trouble over flooding of the Skagit Valley.

**An hon. Member:** Which government?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** We haven't got much of a government so it is hard to recognize it.

**Mr. Rose:** My colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle), was critical of some of us and called us irresponsible and emotional because we had the audacity to raise this matter four days ago. He said, and I paraphrase him, that the government had to have time to think.

**An hon. Member:** They are slow thinkers.

**Mr. Rose:** In a matter of this importance, I suggest that if it takes the government four days to think we have reason to question the intelligence of the government.

**Mr. Pringle:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Fraser Valley West, but the hon. member for Fraser Valley East is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Pringle:** Mr. Speaker, while I may have been paraphrased, I draw your attention to the fact that I never used the word "think". I realize that the hon. member's party has difficulty in that its members usually speak before they think. I usually investigate things—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a point of order; that is debate.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, if after checking *Hansard* I find I have paraphrased the hon. member incorrectly, I will certainly be the first to apologize.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley East made a great deal of the fact that this oil spill was within three miles of his home. I do not understand how that could be as I always understood the hon. member for Fraser Valley East was from Chilliwack. How this oil spill could occur within three miles of Chilliwack I do not know, because it was obviously in the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

**An hon. Member:** He is walking on the waters.

**Mr. Rose:** Someone suggests he is walking on the waters. I suggest he has an international responsibility because his summer home happens to be located on the United States side of the gulf islands.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Rose:** If this motion is acceptable today as a matter of such urgency, I cannot understand why a similar motion was not acceptable three or four days ago unless it is because that motion emanated from the opposition side. People are disillusioned with the trickery and knavery of the political process.

**Mr. Woolliams:** And the skulduggery.