

party. It might be interesting to note that Premier Davis is hiring more Liberals these days than he knows.

● (1710)

Peter Newman in Volume I of "The Canadian Establishment" quoted Mr. Aird's views on making deals, as follows:

For instance, if you're in a town where there's a Royal Bank and you go and tell the manager you are a director of the Bank of Nova Scotia, you're going to be looked after.

We know who has been looked after in the Amax deal. Mr. Aird was also a member of the Permanent Joint Defence Board. Molybdenum, an important mineral used in the industrial arms race, is produced by the Amax mine at Alice Arm.

The CBC program "The Fifth Estate" did a feature story on the Amax situation on April 15, 1981. Their research showed that Mr. Aird's law firm represented Amax in Ottawa. I should like to quote directly from the transcript of that program as follows:

Malling: Scandalous is a word that's frequently tossed around in this dispute, and so is the name of John Aird. The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario had been one of the Liberal party's most important fund raisers. He was also a member of Amax's board of directors in the U.S. when the special dumping permit passed cabinet. Though his law firm represented Amax in Ottawa, Aird denies any personal involvement.

What does this information tell us? The Liberal party, desperate for votes in its 1979 losing cause, approved a special dumping permit for Amax, the only one of its kind in Canada and one which vastly exceeds existing fisheries and oceans legislation, the Fisheries Act, and the metal mining liquid effluent regulations. We all know how industry has the government in its hip pocket. It does not take long to learn how these deals have been made between the companies and Liberal cabinet ministers.

The Amax issue will continue to hound the government until all the facts are clear. Along with other groups I have called for a full public inquiry into the situation, but I have been continually turned down by most members of cabinet. The scientific review panel which was set up by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans dealt only with some of the so-called scientific aspects of the project. Many independent scientists have challenged the findings. However, the issue is more than just a scientific one. There are important social and moral questions involved which have not been addressed in any way by the Liberal party.

Perhaps the most important social question is the entire approval process that Amax underwent. Canada does not have a legislative environmental assessment procedure, so that projects like Amax, which was challenged by the majority of the government's informed scientists—and I think this is a crucial point—can be quietly approved without public input. With an open and public assessment process the public would be assured that projects are mounted with proper studies and proper input.

Should the government have allowed this project to proceed? I encourage Liberal members to read The Global 2000 report, which reads as follows:

### *Water Pollution*

The effect of heavy metal concentrations on the development of marine organisms is only beginning to be understood. They are among the most environmentally persistent substances. They cannot be transmuted or destroyed and, in concert with certain bacteria, have the insidious attribute of combining with organic substances to form highly toxic metallo-organic compounds.

I think this is the most important issue other than the tabling of the documents for which I am looking. I am referring to the way the permit was given out and its actual impact not only on Alice Arm and on the biological organisms there, but its actual impact on man, the native people of Kincolith, the Nishga people in that area, and on the commercial fisheries and species which are taken out of that area and their ultimate genetic and biological impact upon man.

I mentioned earlier that the review panel set up by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans identified three heavy metals that must be abated or there will be serious damage to the marine environment. A brief entitled "Some Moral and Ethical Considerations Relating to the Condition, Management and Utilization of Fisheries of the Pacific Coast of Canada" was presented to the Commission on Pacific Fisheries Policy by the Anglican Diocese of Caledonia, the Anglican Diocese of Yukon, and the Anglican Church of Canada. In it they said the following:

Mining, hydroelectric and forestry operations are bound to have a deleterious effect on fish populations. Yet it is the native people who inhabit the coastal watersheds, who will firstly and most directly be affected by such changes. It is the Nishga people who are most vulnerable to the Amax mine operation at Alice Arm even though they were ignored in the decision-making process which led to the issuing of the permits.

It is a crucial issue which is rarely addressed any longer in the House. The moral implication of the act, in my view, has serious ethical questions surrounding it. Surely the government will come to its senses, realize the damage it has caused and order a full public inquiry. Amax can operate safely but the fact of the matter is that it does not.

Before the debate is over today the people of Canada would like at least a commitment from the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council that he will survey the other offices to see if they have had any correspondence, etc., with Mr. Aird on this matter. Until that is done I do not consider this matter closed. It will not go undebated. I am hopeful other speakers will rise in the House to address themselves to the very serious issues which are held within this motion and the reasons it is being debated today.

At the beginning of my speech I said I would continue to question the government's motives on this project until I received some answers. There are additional motions for the production of papers which I will also continue to pursue on the Amax issue. Amax at Alice Arm, British Columbia, has become a watershed in Canadian environmental issues. Future projects like it will be put under the same scrutiny which Amax has undergone. As soon as the Liberal government realizes this, the better off we will all be, certainly our children.

I trust that in bringing this matter in this way before the House the government side will demonstrate the strength of Parliament, the intent to pursue freedom of information in the