

*Income Tax*

requires great amounts of fertilizer and liming to revitalize the soil, and this has made farming uneconomic.

We now have some knowledge of the results of the mixture of SO<sub>2</sub> and water vapour, H<sub>2</sub>O, which is the formation of sulphurous acid, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. When the ceiling is low and water vapour is held close to the surface of the land, the SO<sub>2</sub> combines with it, resulting in what is called a killer fog, a combination of water vapour, sulphurous acid and sulphur dioxide. This chemical interaction also takes place within the rivers and lakes of the district's watershed, resulting in the high acidity which I have already mentioned.

**An hon. Member:** This is not Jeanne Sauv e's bill.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I will get to Jeanne Sauv e's bill.

Indeed, those who visit our community invariably comment on its moonscape appearance. As a matter of fact the U.S. space program sent moonbound astronauts to the Sudbury basin to practise manoeuvres for their projected moon landing. Yes, Mr. Speaker, for a week American spacemen, in complete regalia, were walking around collecting lunar rock samples. It was stated at the time that there was no other area on earth so closely resembling the surface of the moon.

We are now faced with the formidable task of cleaning up this mess. The taxpayers are shouldering the lion's share of the clean-up, as well as having faced grave hazards to their health over the years. Needless to say, none of this could have happened if there was not acquiescent co-operation from governments, and in the case of the Sudbury district particularly, that of the Tory government. It was a government which was interested strictly in growth without adequate consideration for the ecological and social consequences.

It is fairly obvious that the two corporate multinational giants, Inco and Falconbridge, saw too many levels of government expressing concern for the social and economic consequences to the community as interference in the operation of their businesses. What experience have we to date concerning when the exploiting corporations have dealt exclusively with one level of government?

● (2010)

We have, in Ontario, amendments to the Mining Act which prohibit individuals or groups of individuals from prosecuting Inco or Falconbridge for damage to their property or health as a result of pollution. We have had inadequate pollution monitoring, and a dragging of feet in the cleaning up of obvious hazards due to pollution. We have had inadequate reforestation programs, and whatever attempts are made are initiated by the department of natural resources. One would think that the government and people of Canada would learn from past mistakes.

It is hard to look at the Sudbury experience with pride. Every one of us ought to feel somewhat ashamed for having permitted short-term gains to blind us to consequences. Today, we of the Sudbury basin are living with the results of short-term goals and are striving to rebuild our ravaged environment. Ask anyone from the basin, and he will warn you of the foolhardiness of unplanned resource development.

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

Why is this government so numbskulled about tar sands development in Alberta, in light of the Sudbury experience? Is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) not aware of the ecological hazards of the Syncrude project? Then, let me inform him.

The Syncrude project involves what is considered to be the world's largest strip mining project. Every hour 13,000 tons of tar sand is scooped up for processing. Need I say more? Imagine not only Syncrude but several other projects doing the same thing. Is the minister not aware of the fact that strip mining is probably the most controversial issue involving conservationists around the world? In some progressive states strip mining has been outlawed.

After the tar sands have been scooped up, a hot water process is used to separate the oil from the sand. This produces large quantities of waste material which will necessitate the building of a tailings pond. We have several such tailings ponds in the Sudbury basin, and we know what they can do. In the Syncrude case the pond will be a 9.3 square mile reservoir, highly toxic and covered with a layer of oil.

The Syncrude project is in the path of four major flyways of Canada. Each year millions of water fowl fly over the site en route to their breeding grounds in the Peace-Athabasca delta. Moreover, because of the temperature in the tailings pond, it will be late to freeze and early to thaw, and will therefore be an attraction for late migratory species. The minister of the environment for the province of Alberta has admitted on the floor of his legislature that 30 ducks have perished on a three-acre tailings pond on the Syncrude site. Projections would lead us to conclude that a 9.3 square mile tailings pond would kill about 60,000 water fowl each and every year.

If the minister still has reservations about the severity of the impact of these facts, may I also point out to him that several of the species using the Peace-Athabasca flight paths are currently on the endangered species list and, hence, under federal government protection. As a matter of fact, a study on migratory water fowl on the Syncrude tar sands lease, dated 1973, lists the whooping crane as one of the birds observed on the tar sands lease. In addition, the whistling swan and the Ross goose are also known to inhabit the area.

Furthermore, the tailings pond represents additional hazards to the Athabasca River and delta. There is the perennial danger of ruptured dikes and seepage into the river bed; there have already been two oil spills from the Great Canadian Tar Sands which have reached the delta. What steps have been taken to guard against similar incidents by Syncrude? What studies have been taken to assess the effects on the delicate balance of the delta? What are the implications when other Syncrude-type plants are built in that area?

In addition, the water for the separation process is drawn from the river. Three and a half million gallons per hour will be diverted by Syncrude. Extend this volume upwards when other Syncrude-type plants are constructed in this area—it boggles the mind. Here we sit in Ottawa, not fully comprehending the Frankenstein monster we are about to create. Apart from a share in the ownership of the Syncrude project, the federal government has additional responsibility as defined in the Migratory Birds Conven-