

Government Orders

I hope that when the Prime Minister is in B.C. today or tomorrow he makes an announcement and that he will not allow the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of the Environment to get away with this. I quote from *The Vancouver Sun* editorial of October 20. It is questioning that the province of B.C. should call upon the federal government to conduct a full environmental review. It states:

If, as the federal government claims, the studies carried out have satisfied all environmental concerns, then Ottawa and the company have nothing to fear from the full disclosure that's needed to reassure the public that the project poses no serious risks.

That is an important statement because it applies not just to the Alcan project but any other project. Good corporate citizens will ensure that their projects are referred to environmental assessment review procedures so that we know that the project that eventually comes out will be a better project or a fair project and will treat the area properly. Or, if it is not a good project, it will not happen.

I suggest that the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada are not sure what they have gotten into. We do have a commitment now from the provincial Minister of the Environment that, if a pulpwood agreement in the central interior of B.C. looking at the possibility of a new pulp mill in the Vanderhoof area, is issued, that in fact there will be a joint provincial major projects review process and a joint federal environmental assessment review process. Since the Minister of the Environment in British Columbia has already said there will be a joint federal-provincial assessment of this pulp mill project, we should have a commitment from the government that it will in fact participate in that review and that we will not have yet another exemption just because it is on the Nechako River. Hopefully, the residents of that area can ask some serious questions about the impact on the Nechako River and the Fraser River.

It is important that we get the Government of British Columbia there as well. By participating in this federal-provincial Alcan so-called settlement agreement exempting this from the environmental assessment review process, the government is now afraid 40 per cent of the recreational fish stock in the Nechako River will be destroyed by this project and it is going to be the taxpayers who will have to pick up the tab to rehabilitate that fishery. It is an indication of more and more information that is coming out, not just from the three or

four scientists who are now on the public record expressing their concerns about this project.

Clearly, we have some legislation that needs to be tightened up and strengthened. We have to take the guidelines that are there and tighten up the whole process. That will mean that we have better environmental legislation and better government so that companies know what the guideposts are and so that we can put some action and some legislation into the green plan we are expecting some time this fall from this government. It is high time they lived up to the rhetoric of the green plan it has been talking about.

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if you have ever had an opportunity to take a trip out along the Aviation Parkway here in Ottawa. I suspect you have and I suspect you are well aware of what a beautiful part of the Ottawa area that Aviation Parkway is.

If you have been out there in the Montreal Road area, you have seen the federal housing agency of our government. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's head office is out there in a beautiful setting. It is a park-like setting, a wildlife setting, a ravine setting, right in the middle of an urban area.

That particular location was acquired by the federal housing agency, CMHC, back in 1950. It was acquired at that time for the purpose of building, of course, a head office location for CMHC and perhaps for some other governmental uses. The intention at that time and it always has been since that time, after CMHC and other government agencies made use of the land they needed, was to dispose of any surplus land, to subdivide it and make sure it was put to good use, and to make sure it was used for affordable housing. I know you are aware, Mr. Speaker, as I am, and as all members of the House are that good, affordable housing is something that is very badly needed.

• (1830)

When CMHC turned its attention, after making use of all the land in the area it needed, to what it would do with the rest of the land, it was decided that it should be devoted to housing.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, there is a very important piece of legislation known as Bill C-78 which is presently before the House, and there are fairly broad parameters to rules of relevance. I am not certain the member is