

### *Government Orders*

Finally, it could appear that Alcan, amongst others, are given immunity from the law, and we are just going after the little guy.

Madam Speaker, they will go after somebody who has had a spill of minor proportions into the Fraser River and, at the same time, will allow Alcan without an environmental impact study to drop the level of the Fraser River three feet. You begin to realize why the people in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans became frustrated.

The federal government brought forward its much awaited green plan. We have been told that one of the priorities that was going to be addressed in the green plan was the Fraser River.

The green plan came forward. It has three quarters of one page that talks about in general, vague terms, doing something about the Fraser River in 1992.

This is in contrast to the NDP caucus report on the Fraser River that we brought forward on November 30 under the chairmanship of the member for Okanagan—Shuswap, which contained 50 pages on what had to be done immediately, and how it could proceed in terms of the Fraser River.

One wonders: Where is the commitment of the government when on three quarters of a page it talks of generalities and platitudes like monitoring, compliance and increasing enforcement measures.

• (1610)

They do not even talk about when, how or where. It says that by 1992, mechanisms will be established for co-ordination.

In the NDP Fraser River task force recommendations were some details of how it could be done. We talked about an integrated management structure because that is one of the things that has to happen between provincial bodies, federal bodies and municipal bodies.

**Mr. Reid:** How much is that going to cost?

**Mr. Karpoff:** I do not care what it is going to cost. It is going to be a hell of a lot cheaper than losing that salmon industry.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Karpoff:** That is one of the things you guys over there better understand. The cost is not just simply in maintaining—

**An hon. member:** Tell the Tory to be quiet.

**Mr. Karpoff:** So you spend a billion dollars to save an industry that is vital to this country.

**An hon. member:** I don't mind. Do you?

**Mr. Karpoff:** No. One of the other things that the report by the New Democratic Party talked about was the need for a regional water management authority. There are a number of basins along the Fraser River. You cannot just talk about the Fraser River as if it is the lower estuary. You have to talk about a number of the other sub-basins along that river. You have to get water management authorities in each of those basins that have some co-ordinated plan.

**An hon. member:** How do you plan to do that?

**Mr. Karpoff:** Pollution abatement. This report goes into detail about how you have to get systematic pollution abatement going. It is simply not good enough to issue a three-quarter page statement that contains no content or clear picture of where they are going, and that certainly leaves people in British Columbia with a sense that there is no commitment from this government.

Another area that it talks about is industrial discharge. This is a serious problem. Yes, the cost is going to be high. There is no doubt of that, not only probably in direct money by the government, but to industries. Profitable industries are going to have to meet pollution standards. They are going to have to do it with enforcement.

The green plan presumes they are going to go along and everybody is going to co-operate. We have seen repeatedly in British Columbia where companies have simply looked at pollution fines as a licence to pollute. They are quite willing to pay the fines because they know that they are cheaper than putting in the pollution equipment.

**An hon. member:** Business as usual.

**Mr. Karpoff:** Sewage treatment. This government has been requested repeatedly by the Union of Mayors and Municipalities to make money available for municipal infrastructures, including sewage treatment. Many of the municipalities simply do not have the financial resources to bring sewage treatment up to the level necessary to save the Fraser River.

Habitat enhancement. I noticed this nice little statement in the green plan by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He does not say when he is going to announce a