

*Water Pollution*

even darker cloud over the government's handling of this entire issue.

But that is not all. Let us take a quick look at some of the other motions for the production of papers that this government has so far refused to deal with. Motion No. 45, a motion to have "any reports that have been prepared for or by any department and any reports that have been forwarded to the government by Amax" is being dealt with, it seems, in the most unprofessional way that I have seen this government act. The reports I have asked for appear to be trickling into the government—that is about the best way to describe it—so until the rest of the reports "appear", I assume the government will continue to leave this motion on the Table.

Motions Nos. 62, 63 and 64 ask for copies of government documents that were released to the so-called scientific review panel that was recently held to look into the Amax situation. It is interesting to note that these letters and correspondence were forwarded to the panel for their general use, but have not been released to the public, nor to the independent scientists who have grave concerns about the implications of the dumping of tailings at Alice Arm. Once again, I think all members of this House and the general public have a right to ask why.

As with the present motion we are debating and with the ones I have listed above, I am prepared to debate them for the full time allowed under the rules of this House until such time as the government is prepared to release them.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, we have yet to hear from the government whether they intend to comply with Motions Nos. 62, 63 and 64 which I placed on the Order Paper in June. Perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) could endeavour to bring that forward to the House in the near future.

I first raised the Amax issue here in this House on July 8, 1980, and have been questioning the government about the sleazy way the cabinet passed the only special order in council of its kind to allow Amax of Canada to dump toxic mine wastes into Alice Arm in British Columbia.

Since then more and more information has come out to condemn the government's actions. Four out of five government scientists, for example, on an internal government committee, were so concerned about the deleterious effects this project would have on the environment that they voted against it. However, the government decided to allow the project to go ahead, despite the legitimate scientific concerns of their own public servants.

Even the recent review of the project identifies three heavy metals that will negatively affect, and perhaps permanently affect, the marine environment and the foods that grow there.

Church groups, trade unionists, native groups, environment groups and members of Parliament from both parties on this side of the House, I might say, have all spoken out on this issue. However, the government, afraid of losing face, still refuses to release the crucial documents on this matter.

I remain convinced that this is one of the most important environmental issues to come before us in recent times, not

only because of its significance, but because of the precedent the Liberal party has set in this matter. It is important because of the nature of the way the government allowed this development to take place.

Motion No. 43 is extremely important because of the involvement of the Liberal party, not just members of the Liberal cabinet but the party itself, in granting the dumping permit to Amax. Amax of Canada was handed the Alice Arm tailing deposit regulations on April 4, 1979. I think we all recall, Mr. Speaker, that it was almost dead centre in the middle of a federal election. There were no committees sitting; this House was not sitting; there was no opportunity for members of Parliament, the press, any member of the public or any special interest group to find out exactly what was going on and how it came to be.

This special permit, the only one of its kind in Canada in all of Canada's history, allows Amax to dump an average of 10,000 metric tons of slurry tailings per day for a period over 26 years into the environmentally sensitive Alice Arm inlet. In fact, the order in council was issued behind the closed doors of cabinet during the election just two years ago. Even the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) admitted that the notification to the people of the area could have been better.

What happens in the smoky back rooms of the Liberal party? This is a question I would like to address. And who participates in these gatherings is something I think all members on this side of the House would like to know more about.

The Parliamentary secretary's refusal to consult other departments, departments, I might say, that would be the most likely to have had correspondence with Mr. Aird, leads to some serious questions indeed. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Aird is the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and has been a longtime Liberal and a member of the Amax board of directors. Wallace Clement, in his 1977 study "Continental Corporate Power", identifies Aird as part of "Canada's internationalized elite". His position as a Liberal senator and his participation on numerous corporations has led Clement to say that it "should be evident why Amax finds him a useful member of its board".

Amax is not a small, struggling corporation that needs Liberal, Tory or Socred handouts. The company has an international reputation as a plunderer of resources and an outfit that pays little or no attention to environmental concerns. That record is certainly clear to see for any member of the House who would care to go to the Parliamentary Library and look at the track record of Amax internationally on environmental matters.

Canada is not left untouched. On June 4, 1980, Mr. Aird was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. He was replaced on the Amax board by none other than the former president of the United States, Gerald Ford. Aird was also the chief national fund raiser, or perhaps as we in the House better know it these days, the bag person, for the Liberal party. He has held that position for some time for the national Liberal