

I want to talk about regional development in terms of western initiative programs. In Port Hardy there is a proposal to put a ferro-chromium plant in place by an individual, Mr. P. J. Woody. As my colleague points out, they have thrown him out of Bamberton and they have thrown him out of Nanaimo. Many communities are very concerned about it.

Be that as it may, what is critical is that we do not understand the environmental impact of his project, and yet about a quarter of the total funding of the budget for British Columbia is being put by the federal government into his project. Yet it will not provide in the environmental assessment review panel for intervener funding. Nobody knows what the impact of this project is going to be. There is very serious concern in many, many of the quarters, be it the Kwakiutl Tribal Council, the Fort Rupert Indian Band, the fishing industry or people concerned about water supplies.

It is absolutely important that when the federal government undertakes to fund an industrial initiative those people who have concerns, especially about technical and long-term impacts with the potential to contaminate the environment, have access to intervener funding. I would ask the Minister of National Health who is sitting here in the House today if he would consider assisting with this intervener funding because it is the health of Canadians that we are dealing with here. Would he encourage the provincial government, in partnership with the federal government, to provide funding for those people who need to obtain some technical expertise to evaluate the project and to come up with some indication of what is going to be its impact on the future health of Canadians?

We have put the proposition to the Minister of Indian Affairs who is responsible for the Kwakiutl District Council members, the Fort Rupert group, the Kuatsino Indian Band and the Tsulquate Band in that area. We have also asked that the minister responsible for western initiatives provide intervener funding. At this point, there is no response from fisheries, environment or health.

The provincial government hands it all over to the environmental assessment review panel. It in turn passes it back to the government saying that the Federal Court requires that some assistance be provided. Hopefully, the conscience of the individuals involved in those

cabinet positions will make some intervener funding available so that people have a fair chance to evaluate this project.

Some of the initial comments by the owner of the project concerning organized labour and the desire not to have organized labour involved in the project are interesting. The main concern I have as a member who represents the riding in which the project is located is one of fairness. When the federal government is giving a grant, a condition of that grant should be that the employees of that operation have the right to organize and bargain collectively with a fair contract for wages and working conditions. Not only should the opportunity for environmental impact funding be provided through that grant but also in that grant should be included the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively. That is absolutely critical.

• (1700)

I had hoped to discuss some of the difficulties in regional development that we have had created by this government in the fishing industry and in the forest industry. A catastrophic effect caused by the Prime Minister and the Minister for International Trade is the deterioration of the fishing industry in the province of British Columbia. In the Johnstone Straits there is a continued erosion of the fishing industry and an absolute unwillingness of Fisheries and Oceans to permit traditional fisheries to continue in those areas. That has negatively impacted on places like Campbell River, Port Hardy and Alert Bay. Instead of a fishing season that would extend from July through till September we are now looking at 10 and 12 days. People cannot even qualify for unemployment insurance in the fishing time provided, and the communities will undoubtedly wither and die.

The fact that the Minister for International Trade and this government are prepared to allow the export of salmon and herring directly into the United States means that, if we can believe what the B.C. Fisheries Council said when they appeared before the committee, it is their intention to move their production units into the United States. It only makes sense because their employees are not organized, they do not have collective agreements to protect them, their wage level is half, there are no benefits and Canadian processing companies, which are already in position in southeast Alaska and