

*Government Orders*

specie a year. It has now accelerated to 10 species per hour. Entire species are becoming extinct: 10 within this hour of debate. We have the extremely unusual, naive and opportunistic politics that are being practised to try to go after this piece of legislation, saying: "Here is the big, mean hand of the feds coming into Quebec".

Mr. Paradis, a Quebec minister, has had many opportunities to communicate with the federal minister and with any member of this House on Bill C-13; similarly any member of the National Assembly. Groups from Quebec came. There was support from all across the country for this kind of an approach on a very important piece of legislation.

On January 23 this year the justices of the Supreme Court of Canada, including the three justices from the province of Quebec, unanimously on the Oldman decision made it very clear that this kind of legislative approach was totally constitutional, totally appropriate. It is not a colourable device. The justices warned that the feds should not be inappropriately or unethically intervening in areas of clear provincial jurisdiction, and this does not do that. No members on the committee that I am aware of attempted to force legislation that intervened specifically in the provincial jurisdiction. I warn the members of the Quebec assembly and I warn members of the Bloc that this issue transcends normal partisan debate.

This is an issue of enormous future consequence to the lives of all humans, to the nature of this land, and the biophysical nature of this nation. Quebec in that sense will always be part of Canada. No one for a moment can ever suggest that biophysically Quebec will ever be located anywhere else than where it presently is. The birds will fly, the fish will swim. The lives of people will continue to be affected by this kind of legislation.

The real test of the intended ineffectiveness of this bill has been clearly established though by this government. It is only appropriate in third and final reading that Canadians have a sense of why this bill does not meet the real test of where it should be as a piece of legislation.

We have examples in every province and in every region of the country but let me just point out a few. There is Kemano II, Alcan's project in British Columbia; there is the Oldman River dam, an Alberta government project; Rafferty-Alameda in the province of Saskatchewan; the Great Whale in la belle province; and Point Aconi in Nova Scotia.

On the other hand, we can look at the 15 sets of regulations which are in the government's hands and not in the hands of members. Because of the result of a vote yesterday, we have been refused the opportunity to bring those regulations before the House, even though it is good enough for firearms regulations but not when it comes to the most important issue in Canada. We can see regulations on firearms, but we cannot see regulations and scrutinize them in the House of Commons.

What kind of a government would do that and what is it hiding? I intend to come to what it is hiding.

Let me deal with the exercise and the expression of government will on major projects. This is a source of great frustration to many Canadians. It is a situation which has brought many Canadians I have met to the point of openly exerting violence to try to get some kind of democratic procedures in place to deal with serious environmental issues.

On Kemano II, the Order in Council exemption has already been found to be unconstitutional and it has been found to be illegal and was quashed by Mr. Justice Allison Walsh last year and it is back before the courts. The Kemano settlement agreement similarly was quashed by the Federal Court because of the questionable way that it had been produced behind closed doors.

The Oldman River dam on January 23, 1992 the Supreme Court found affirmative regulatory duty. The Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Transport know full well that they have an affirmative regulatory duty. They should make an order that the valves at the dam should remain open so that the reservoir does not fill. I quote from a letter from Martha Kostuch, the vice-president of the Friends of the Oldman River, dated March 10, to the Minister of Transport. She states: