

Government Orders

dians to go to the appropriate courts of appropriate jurisdictions to get some kind of redress.

Why so many Order in Council provisions? Why aren't the regulations listed? What is the government hiding? What is the secret agenda? Why are the acts of Parliament not included? When the minister himself put out his propaganda packet on June 18, he said that acts such as the Fisheries Act might some day be included. Clearly all of that should be included now.

The other serious issue of concern of Canadians is that for a long time there was an adage in this country that you could go ahead with your own little project. You could go ahead with Point Aconi because it was only going to let off 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, and the "sox and nox" releases from it were not that significant and were not going to violate the agreements that had been made with Ottawa.

We have the Point Aconi project going to proceed. What about the three thermal plants that are proposed for southern Alberta? What about the Shand in Saskatchewan? What about all of these other projects? "At what point," the public keeps asking, "does the destruction of the environment by what has been described as insignificant increment stop?" Everybody wants to—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to tell the hon. member that his time has expired. I know we all want to listen to him, but his time has expired.

We will go now to questions and comments and I will recognize the hon. member for Surrey North on a question or a comment.

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I was fascinated by the speech being given by the previous speaker, particularly his discussion around Kemano and some of the other projects that seem to be destined to go ahead.

I would like him to expand on it particularly as he would see it influencing such things as the Big Bend in Surrey, which is the last fresh water marsh in the lower Fraser River estuary. Where will it be if the Fraser River is dropped three feet? Will it no longer be an estuary or a marsh but be a high and dry piece of land that some

developer is going to want to come along and develop? I would like the member's comments on that.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for an excellent and pertinent question. If we look at issues like Kemano II or Kemano completion that have been exempted from public hearings, issues like the Big Bend are precisely the kind of issue that should have a mandatory environmental assessment.

• (1300)

What we know is that by excluding a big project like Alcan from public hearings, people like the residents of Surrey, New Westminster, Vancouver, Hope and Williams Lake, right on up to Prince George and into my constituency have been excluded from the opportunity to know what the impact of a substantial lowering of the Fraser River means to their community.

It means the people who want to pump out water for the purpose of hay production cannot do that any more. Those new industries that might have wanted to extract water or place certain kinds of materials back into the water will not be allowed to proceed.

The Big Bend is a very important marshland and part of the Fraser River estuary. It is important to all the anadromous species as they come down—it does not matter whether it is sockeye, chinook or any of the other species—that they make use of the Fraser River estuary. They need those marshlands.

No initial environmental evaluation has been done. There have been no public hearings in relation to Big Bend. There have been no hearings in relation to the over-all impact on the Fraser River estuary. This is a cover-up of cataclysmic proportions.

The government has refused to allow knowledgeable, well-meaning, well-intentioned British Columbians to come out and talk about the largest and most important river in British Columbia, and what the impact of something like K-II will mean in relation to their community, their environment, their fishery and the future of their fishery and of the great blue heron populations which make use of Big Bend.

There are other bird populations that make use of it for nesting areas. The utilization by fish and by fry, the