

Government Orders

Those are regarded as infrastructure for the convenience, the safety of the public and the economic development of the province and the country they are found in. This wrong-headed, stupid approach to charging the people who live on the coast of British Columbia and on the coast of Newfoundland more and more money is an absolutely wrong-headed and unsafe approach.

With regard to the transportation policy of this government, I cannot resist putting a couple of more things on the record. At Port Hardy, the people who live in Ocean Falls, Bella Coola, Bella Bella, Klemtu and in Shearwater all move up and down the coast of British Columbia. It is right on the Pacific Ocean. The storms howl in all winter, and it really is a tough place to work in the marine environment and in the air environment.

Every day those aircraft go out. They are trying to serve those communities at very high cost. How does the Conservative government try to help them? They come along, go to Port Hardy and say: "We are going to take out your BHF direction finding equipment."

When an airplane is lost out there, the flight service station will not be able to locate it and help it find its way back to that flight service station in the airport. It is on its own.

What happens is that as in the past, that thing saved people's lives. I personally heard it happen on the air, using that VDF direction finding equipment. It must be maintained in there. If it breaks down, the government will say: "We are not going to put it back". But it has got to be kept in there.

There is another absolutely blind, stupid thing done by this government in that same Port Hardy flight service station which is a transportation key on the coast of British Columbia. It turned around and said: "Oh well, we are going to save some money. Instead of operating this flight service station 24 hours a day, if somebody phones in sick, we are not going to pay any overtime for anybody else to come in. We are just going to close it down".

When they close it down, they cannot give them an altimeter setting for the aircraft. They cannot monitor whether or not the instrument landing system is functioning. So now when a pilot arrives to take somebody out of the hospital on a Medivac they cannot descend

below 5,400 feet because they are on a non-precision approach. What happens is that the person is going to sit in that hospital because these guys have to over-fly that airport.

This is to save a few lousy bucks. I do not know who the government is prepared to let die in that hospital because they cannot be flown out of there. When is it going to stop? The people who live and work in those communities deserve some fair treatment. They do not deserve to be hung out to dry for a few lousy dollars, an overtime shift that could cost somebody their life.

When the navigation equipment on an airplane acts up, which it does, and an airplane gets lost with a load of people, the only thing between them and oblivion is that VDF direction-finding equipment. The government could save a few bucks, but it will lose a plane load of people, and it is prepared to make this unworkable, unsafe and extremely expensive.

I do not know what kind of an appeal could be made to the government members. It is time to look into that transportation system. Look at the money you are paying out in some of those Indian communities for welfare, with a 600 per cent increase in food and housing costs. You are killing economic development. Any hope is lost for many of those people to be able to get up on their feet. There is tremendous initiative there, all kinds of innovations. Some of the hardest working, creative people I have ever worked with are in there and yet they are absolutely stymied by the unwillingness of this government to look seriously at what the needs of the transportation system are, to help the quality of life and to help economic development.

I would urge the government, using this bill dealing with coastal shipping, as the mechanism to look at smaller communities such as Ocean Falls, Shearwater, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, and I make an appeal. When you are paying \$6 for a two litre carton of milk, 600 per cent more for bread, eggs, fruit to give your kids, and fresh vegetables, all this can be saved. But for some help, why not leave the northern tax allowance in place. You do not need the money that badly, to deprive kids of decent food, to deprive people of safety. You do not need the money that badly. Those people work hard and it is just amazing what this government has done to them.