

*Adjournment Debate*

environment in Labrador. We do not want to see jobs created at the expense of destroying the way of life of those people or undermining of the very underpinnings of their culture.

We feel that there is every justification for Canada to withdraw its support from the Labrador base.

For example, Mr. Speaker, you have probably seen the environmental impact statement that was done by the Department of National Defence. It has been dismissed as shallow, as biased and as bad science by virtually every scientist and every competent analyst who has read it. The environmental impact statement done in support of the Goose Bay testing program has been completely dismissed. We hope that the federal Minister of the Environment will come down, dismiss the report and cancel the base.

Virtually every native nation in this country now finds itself in conflict with the federal government over environmental issues. The Innu is one group. They are now in court in Toronto arguing that this base violates their aboriginal rights, their human rights, and even their rights under international covenants to protect their human rights and their rights to maintain their own culture.

The Barriere Algonquin people are now in court in Quebec because environmental developments in Quebec in the forest industry have progressed without consultation with those people. We would hope that Canada would do the right thing there as well by taking intervenor status in the courts against the Government of Quebec to make sure that the Barriere Algonquin people are consulted before their lands are desecrated by clear-cut logging.

The same is true in James Bay. You will be aware, Mr. Speaker, that just a few days ago the Cree and the Inuit from James Bay came to the steps of the Parliament Buildings here in Ottawa to protest the kinds of developments that are taking place in James Bay. The James Bay project which threatens to destroy their livelihood, flood their traplines, poison the fish and destroy their communities is being expanded.

Unfortunately, Canada is not listening to the arguments made by the James Bay Cree and Inuit. Canada is not listening to their arguments because rather than coming to Parliament to make their case, they feel that they now have to go to the United States to make a case to the people who will be buying Quebec hydro under long-term contracts. Those people, in preference to the

people of Canada, tend to lend a sympathetic ear to the concerns of the James Bay Cree.

As Max Yalden has pointed out in his report, Canada can no longer ignore the pleas that are being made by the native people. We can no longer treat native people in areas of economic development as if their lands were not owned by them and as if they were non people who do not occupy lands.

We can no longer treat aboriginal lands as if they are empty and open for development. We are going to have to treat those people as if they have rights to occupy the lands on which they live and as if they have the right to be consulted and their consent sought before those lands are developed in such a way as to destroy their communities, their livelihoods, their lives and their health.

This is the concern that I have to the response that the Prime Minister gave on March 7. You cannot treat these problems flippantly and without the kind of seriousness that they deserve.

Native people are not taking it any more from the people of Canada and from the Government of Canada. They are now taking their case to the courts where they are being successful in demonstrating that Canada ignores their human and aboriginal rights, their very right to live with the same level of health and the same standard of living as other Canadians.

There is not only that, they are taking their case to international courts, to the United Nations and international human rights commissions. They are being successful in international bodies. This is becoming an embarrassment to Canada, as it should be an embarrassment to Canada in the way we treat our native citizens.

I believe that Canada could be doing the right thing on the Innu issue in Goose Bay on its own initiative by cancelling the Goose Bay project. We know that it will not stand up to the environmental test. It does not stand up to the human rights test. It does not stand up to the test of fairness which should be the test that this government uses in all its decisions with respect to aboriginal people.

**Mr. Jean-Louis Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, in 1990, NATO identified a requirement