

*Income Tax*

provincial government came to power, that there have been more charges laid in co-operation with the Liberal government than ever before, and more convictions obtained than ever before in our province.

In any event I did want to refer to a letter the Minister of the Environment wrote to the minister of the environment for Alberta directly relating to the Syncrude project. I quote:

It does appear . . . from an examination of the available information, that Syncrude has failed to appreciate the real scope of environmental concerns and has also failed to address the question of environmental protection in either a realistic or an adequate manner.

That is a letter from the Minister of the Environment expressing her very serious concern about the whole project, and people on the other side of the House have been screaming across, "Are you for it or against it?" I am asking that question of the Minister of the Environment because she has raised some very interesting questions about whether this project should proceed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but we are discussing Bill C-49, and perhaps the hon. member would now like to speak on the amendment.

**Mr. Leggatt:** Madam Speaker, I think I am entitled to speak on the bill generally even though we are discussing a specific amendment. Second, I recall that this bill provides for tax exemption with regard to the Syncrude consortium, and therefore comments concerning the Syncrude project are completely in order, I would submit, with the greatest respect. They are completely in order because of the tax concessions granted and because this bill refers specifically to the taxability of royalties.

I would relate my comments to the bill that way, and I hope, Madam Speaker, that you will accept the explanation that my discussion of the environment is in fact related to the tax bill before us.

I do want to get back to what is really going to happen to the environment. It is very interesting that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald), on a program called "Question Period" last Sunday, in answer to a question from David Ablett of the Vancouver *Sun* when he discussed the environmental aspect of the Syncrude project, responded as follows:

This presents the classic conundrum that a decision maker always has that there is the environmental tradeoff against the oil supply tradeoff . . .

That is exactly what we are facing with the Syncrude project—a trade off in terms of the environment—and clearly the evidence is beginning to mount overwhelmingly that the environment is going to suffer drastically as a result of this project.

It is also interesting that the federal government's own environmental assessment of the Syncrude project was highly critical indeed, and I now quote from a memorandum to the minister. In that particular critical statement given to her by her own officials dealing with waste water management—

**Mr. Blais:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the Chair has ruled that discussion of the environment by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) was out

[Mr. Leggatt.]

of order. Notwithstanding that ruling, the hon. member persists in discussing a matter which the Chair has deemed not to be relevant. I suggest that the hon. member should be reminded that if he does not abide by the rulings of the Chair, there are certain disciplines called for by the rules.

**Mr. Leggatt:** If I may respond to the hon. member's point of order, I did not hear Madam Speaker make the ruling that my comments were out of order. Certainly I would respect Madam Speaker's rulings and would abide by them. If the hon. member had been listening carefully, since I was proceeding on exactly the same subject, it was clear that I was in order. I would appreciate it if the hon. member would listen, because I think he may learn something about this particular project. I think there is hope for that hon. member. He is far enough back that he may be capable of thinking a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to deal with the whole problem of the environment and the report given to the minister regarding the Syncrude project by her own officials. Dealing with the water waste management concept, the following was said:

We feel that Syncrude's stated water balance for the project is incorrect, based on our present knowledge including data from the Great Canadian Oil Sands operation. If this is the case, deleterious discharges to the environment may result because of dam instability, percolation or through direct deposits. Another major concern is that the disposal of large quantities of saline mine water may have a serious environmental impact.

In other words, the Athabasca delta is about to get a shot in the head; that is what is going to happen with this project if we do not take a very careful look and proceed on the basis of the environmental studies we have.

In terms of the air pollution problem, this again was stated by the minister's own officials:

Syncrude's assessment of environmental effects from sulphur dioxide emissions was to predict ground level concentrations based on a single stack and ideal weather conditions.

This is a simplistic approach because it does not consider total emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, adverse dispersion conditions nor the effect from other operating plants in the area. In addition the long-term potential problem of cumulative deposition of sulphur emissions in regional and transboundary sites was not reviewed by Syncrude. The effect of heavy metal emissions in the plant fuel combustion gases should also be assessed properly.

In other words, there was an attempt by Syncrude to "con" both the federal government and the provincial government in their impact studies, and that is the kind of partner this government has decided to play footsie with. If they are going to misrepresent the pollution position on that site, we had better have a look at the whole deal. We had better consider carefully the whole deal, if they conduct pollution studies based on something like 10 per cent ideal weather conditions and try to fob them off as accurate and scientific studies. That is exactly what has been done in this case.

● (2110)

The last point I wanted to raise, and certainly not the least, in this same study by officials of this government which was directed to the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Sauvé), deals with migratory birds. The tar sands area is overflowed by a high percentage of the total migra-