

*Water Pollution*

scientists from the University of British Columbia and, saddest of all, obviously on the backs of the Nishga Indians.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I rise very briefly on a point of order. I took care not to interrupt the hon. member while he was speaking, but I noted that he made some mention of the fact that I was not in the House. I would just like to inform the House that I was called out for a few moments. I am back and I want to say, in view of the hon. member's remarks, that I had hoped he would take the time to read the motion we are debating. We are debating the tabling of papers, not the environmental question.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to read the motion into the record again, as follows:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House before March 2, 1981, copies of all correspondence, telegrams or communications exchanged between Mr. John Aird and Cabinet ministers and/or their past or present staff regarding the permit for Amax Limited at Alice Arm.

● (1750)

All that the government needs to do, Mr. Speaker, is to agree to that and release the papers. Then people can judge for themselves. Does the government agree to tabling this? Does the government agree to table all correspondence that has taken place? We would like to know that. The people would like to know that because serious questions have been raised.

**Some hon. Members:** No!

**An hon. Member:** Why?

**Mr. Manly:** The parliamentary secretary has said that the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) was involved in a carefully orchestrated series of insinuations. He questioned his motives. I would like to point out to the parliamentary secretary, and to all hon. members opposite, that if they wish to question the motives of the hon. member for Skeena, they will also be questioning the motives of the Nishga people, of all Indian people on the northwest coast, of church groups and unions, all of whom are vitally concerned in getting this basic information so that they may know what has happened in the past.

The parliamentary secretary said that the hon. member for Skeena reflected on the integrity of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. I do not wish to comment on that, but I simply want to reiterate the facts that up until September 12, 1980, the present Lieutenant Governor was on the board of Amax. On September 15, 1980, he became Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. I would like to ask why it was that he resigned.

I would like to read into the record some material from the Canadian Parliamentary Guide relating to the Hon. John Black Aird and the corporate directorships which he still holds.

**An hon. Member:** Is that criminal?

**Mr. Manly:** He is listed on page 783 of the Parliamentary Guide for 1980 as holding the following:

General Counsel and Director: Reed Shaw Osler Limited. Deputy Chairman of Board and Director: Algoma Central Railway. Vice-President and Director: Pacific Atlantic Canadian Investment Co. Ltd. Director: American Climax Incorporated. Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Tungsten Mining Corporation Ltd. Consolidated-Bathurst Ltd., Dominion Glass Co. Ltd., National Life Assurance Company of Canada, Rolland Paper Co. Ltd.

That is a fairly impressive list, Mr. Speaker.

**An hon. Member:** What is the matter with that? What is your point?

**Mr. Manly:** The point is that up until September 12, 1980, John Aird was a member of the Board of Directors of Amax, and he thought it was necessary to divest himself of that directorship before he assumed the lieutenant governorship of Ontario.

**An hon. Member:** We all do.

**Mr. Manly:** I would like to stress the importance of having these papers released. I remind hon. members—

**An hon. Member:** What papers?

**An hon. Member:** What does that mean?

**Mr. Manly:** —of the papers that are mentioned in the order. I remind hon. members that this permit for dumping of effluent was given in the middle of the 1979 election. The Indian people were not aware of what was involved—

**Some hon. Members:** Come on!

**Mr. Manly:** Hon. members opposite can laugh, but we all remember that during the late 1960s and early 1970s people were very concerned about mercury pollution in the English and Wabagoon River system. People were not aware of what the effect of mercury pollution was until a decade ago. Now we are aware of some of the dangers of this kind of dumping, yet we are continuing to do it.

The people in the English and Wabagoon River area are having extreme difficulty getting some kind of compensation. At Alice Arm, the Nishga people do not want to be involved in long litigation to get compensation for past wrongs. They want to prevent damage to their environment right now.

**An hon. Member:** That is fair enough.

**Mr. Manly:** The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) feels that Amax has been a responsible corporate citizen. He suggests that it is wrong for us to mention their operation in Namibia, a country wrongfully held by the government of South Africa. The United Nations has condemned South Africa for this. I suggest to the hon. member that this is all part of a pattern of rip-offs by that company.

If members opposite believe there is no foundation to the suggestion of political pressure brought to bear in the issuance of permits, let them accede to this request and have any correspondence or telegrams between John Aird and cabinet