

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 81—RAFFERTY—ALAMEDA PROJECT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. de Jong: That this House urge the Minister of the Environment to revoke the Rafferty-Alameda project licence and use all federal authority to prevent Saskatchewan from proceeding with project construction until an independent environmental assessment panel has completed its review.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): When the House recessed at 1 o'clock the Liberal Opposition had the floor. Since it had been agreed that the allotted time would be split in two the Official Opposition still has 10 minutes.

The hon. member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou had the floor, but since he is not in the House now his allotted time as well as the time for questions and comments automatically expire. Therefore, as agreed by the House before recess, a second speaker on the opposition side may have the floor for 10 minutes.

[English]

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting to use House time for my question of privilege about the hon. member for Kamloops. I see that the member is not present again today.

I have heard informally from some members of his party that he may be back by Thursday evening of this week. I wonder if the Speaker has confirmation as to when the member will be back in the House so that we might proceed with the point I raised last Friday.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Officially, the Chair does not know at this time when the Hon. Member for Kamloops will be back on the Hill.

The hon. member for Western Arctic has the floor.

[English]

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in the debate about basically the

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environment but more specifically about Rafferty-Alameda, the Rafferty dam mystery as it has become known.

One of the most fundamental questions to be asked is: Why is the Rafferty dam project racing toward the finish line when the important decisions have yet to be made about whether it should be built at all?

Being environmentally friendly is everyone's buzz word—businesses, consumers, and government—but it is not saving our planet. The situation with Rafferty-Alameda is indicative of most other environmental problems today, that is that there is no leadership. Ottawa and the provinces never stop arguing over who is responsible for what, without any leadership on who will defend the planet and protect the environment.

Canadians have made it clear that they want this government to take action on our many environmental problems. Most environmental damage is irreversible and the accumulative effects are degrading the environment at an astounding rate. Canada must lead the world in practising environmentally responsible statescraft. This means defining and implementing a strict concept of sustainable development through securing global co-operation to eliminate critical problems immediately and fostering an environmentally conscious populace through public education and involvement.

The Liberal government established Environment Canada in 1971. Today that ministry alone does not go far enough toward addressing the alarming environmental issues facing the world: mass famines in Africa, the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the holes in the ozone layer, and the global warming which could cause droughts and floods like our country has never experienced.

Knowing all of this I have to ask: Where is the government? Where are the policies? Government has to integrate environmental input into decision making at the highest level. Environment must be a priority of every federal department. It must be the cornerstone of every department's work.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you as I suggested over a year ago that we have a commissioner, an auditor of the environment who is independent of the House. Those are suggestions that have come from the public, because the