

Amax Limited

It continues:

I am unaware of any attempt by you to contact Task Force members to determine if in fact such a review would be inconvenient. In its present format, it appears to be nothing more than an information memorandum or progress report to your director.

I have just one more quote, Mr. Speaker. It continues:

In the present situation, the records will show that the JDCC approved a Task Force recommendation. This, of course, is false. The Task Force should not have to bear the responsibility of a decision which in reality was only that of one person.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. Perhaps the Hon. Member would like to seek unanimous consent to continue his remarks, if he wishes. However, I have taken into consideration the point of order raised, which took away some moments of his time. I must now draw to his attention the fact that his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Fulton: I would certainly be prepared to seek unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is there unanimous consent that the Hon. Member for Skeena continue his remarks?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): There is not unanimous consent.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to explain that we have a very important Veterans Affairs motion coming on third, and since we will not have the full hour at our disposal, we would appreciate having as much time as possible for the veterans.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I do not mean to enter the debate, but I think the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) can be assured that there will be a full hour available to him.

Mr. McKenzie: I am glad to hear that.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, let me say, without any apology, that I said "no" to a request for unanimous consent that the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) continue. I have been here in the House on half a dozen occasions listening to him making these allegations, speaking in the kind of tone which creates this kind of spurious debate. I am not one who would voluntarily spend any more time walking through the mud than I must. However, the remarks of the Hon. Member have once again taken a very predictable line for many in the debate. He has offered no evidence. He has offered a great many distorted truths and equally as great a number of total untruths today.

The only thing I can say to the Hon. Member is that there is no question but that this kind of decision is always controversial. One can always find those who are either side of the issue.

Having said that, and having been honest enough to admit that certainly, in this kind of environmental question, there are always two sides, it would serve the Hon. Member and, indeed, the House well if, as much as is possible in this kind of debate, we try to stick to the facts, to behave as rational men and women in this Chamber and not seek to drag the reputations of many people through the mud. The Hon. Member has made unsubstantiated allegations, because of the immunity afforded to him—

Mr. Blaikie: Keep talking. We will send it out to the groups concerned.

Mr. Tobin: —which he would not dare make outside the House.

Mr. Fulton: Name one.

Mr. Tobin: The Hon. Member spoke of credibility and accountability. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Member has never raised the issue before the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry or before the Committee on the Environment. They are one and the same with respect to either matter, fisheries concerns or environmental concerns.

Mr. Fulton: A point of order!

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, he has not come before the Committee.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member would be well advised to check the record. He said this previously in the debate but I did not bother to object. I raised this many times before both parts of the Committee, and I would urge him to check it out rather than put falsehoods on the record.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member stands in his place and repeats a statement as was pointed out in the last debate by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané), who rose to the Hon. Member's point of order. Yes, three years ago, once—

Mr. Fulton: A point of order!

Mr. Tobin: —the Hon. Member came before the Committee. If I were to have stood every time the Hon. Member issued another untruth between his teeth in the last hour, I would not have had a chance to speak today.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member does not come to the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, so he does not really know what is going on. As a matter of fact, I raised this issue with the Deputy Minister just last week. He can check the record.

Mr. Tobin: I am the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and I am always there. The fact that the Hon. Member can rise and make this kind of statement shows how easily he finds it to grab little threads of whatever it is that works in his mind and make all kinds of