

surprised that a member from the great province of British Columbia would give any hint at all of doubt about the integrity and competence of these three distinguished British Columbians. It is worth while repeating what the panel's terms of reference were. They were as follows:

1. To examine and advise on the adequacy of the Alice Arm Tailings Deposit Regulations for protecting economically important fisheries resources and Indian food fisheries of Alice Arm and environs.

2. To examine and advise on whether planned tailings deposit practices are likely to meet the terms and conditions of the regulations.

3. To assess the planned monitoring program to determine whether it will be adequate to detect violations of the terms of the regulations or impacts upon fish and fish habitat, and to recommend necessary improvements.

4. To consult with interested agencies and parties knowledgeable about the issue.

5. To examine and recommend any alternative tailings disposal methods which could significantly reduce or preclude hazards to the fisheries resources.

6. To recommend further courses of action in the future which in the opinion of the panel, may be necessary to address the issue.

7. To prepare two reports: as soon as possible an interim report recommending any action deemed important for protecting the public interest, and a final report by July 1, 1981.

The scientific review panel went about its work with great dedication and diligence and, starting around the end of March, 1981, consulted with knowledgeable people in various parts of British Columbia, and held open public meetings at Prince Rupert and Vancouver. In between meetings, they studied an immense amount of correspondence and reports which had a bearing on this unquestionably important subject.

In the early part of May, the scientific review panel produced its interim report which commenced with the statement, which I will quote because it is most significant today. It reads:

It is the panel's considered opinion that, in the short term, the public interest will not be jeopardized by the continued discharge of Amax mine tailings to Alice Arm. Accordingly, no major restrictive actions are deemed necessary at this time.

That was the interim report on this matter. The panel's final report was issued on July 24 and consisted of a document of some 154 pages, in itself a somewhat remarkable feat considering the fact that the three scientists involved started their task only four months previously.

The summary findings of the review panel have already been given considerable publicity, but I feel it would be appropriate if I repeated them to the House at this time. These were the panel's conclusions, and I quote directly from the report which it presented:

(a) With the possible exceptions of cadmium, lead and zinc in the solid form, no deleterious effects are expected to result from the daily deposit of 12,000 metric tons of Amax/Kitsault tailings into Alice Arm, in accordance with the Alice Arm Tailings Deposit Regulations.

(b) The following substances, in both solid and dissolved forms, all occur in concentrations which are the same or less than local background conditions: arsenic, copper, iron, mercury, manganese, nickel, uranium-235 and its daughter products, radium-226, thorium-230 and lead-210. Moreover their dissolved concentrations in the tailings all meet or are less than Canadian surface and drinking water guidelines and objectives except manganese, which slightly exceeds an aesthetic drinking water guideline.

(c) In the dissolved form, cadmium, lead and zinc all occur at concentrations in the tailings equal to or less than local freshwater background conditions, and all

three meet or are less than Canadian surface and drinking water guidelines and objectives.

I would emphasize the word "less", Mr. Speaker. The findings continue as follows:

(e) A "cloud" of fine tailings containing approximately 4 per cent of the total daily solids from the Amax/Kitsault discharge is not expected to result in increased loads of dissolved substances in the Alice Arm water column.

I could go on and on. I make the point that the speech we have heard today from the hon. member for Skeena is not relevant to the environmental question. What we have heard, if anything, is an attack on the integrity of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and, I submit, an attack on the integrity and the competence of the three noted scientists of the University of British Columbia who carried out the study and made this report.

**An hon. Member:** Read the papers.

**Mr. Tobin:** What papers? You make a charge and I say to any hon. member who makes a charge in this House, "Back it up," and I use this expression not in any emotional sense, "Put up, or shut up."

In response to the specific term of reference to examine and recommend any alternative tailings disposal methods which would significantly reduce or preclude hazards to the fishery resource, the panel concluded that the marine disposal method was environmentally preferable to any sort of land disposal scheme that is technically feasible. This confirmed the earlier conclusion arrived at by departmental experts with regard to the land storage alternative.

The panel recommended a number of actions and that further studies be undertaken, the most significant of which are as follows:

1. The tailings outfall pipe be extended to a depth of 100 metres to ensure regular compliance with the regulations.

2. Research on methods to reduce cadmium, lead and zinc in the tailings should be accelerated. Implementation of an abatement program for these substances is recommended as being highly desirable.

3. A variety of research projects are recommended to provide an improved understanding of oceanographic processes in Alice Arm and biological effects of mine tailings.

4. In future, approval of special regulations should be contingent upon the preparation of an adequate environmental impact statement, and an opportunity for public scrutiny and input should be provided.

I take great pleasure in telling you that on these specific recommendations the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has already held discussions in British Columbia and subsequently has been in touch by letter with the president at Alice Arm to ensure that the intent of these recommendations is being carried out.

In summary, I would simply say again that I have done my homework, not having been privy to an examination of the scientific data and facts concerning the environmental question at Alice Arm, but I was disappointed to hear an unsubstantiated series of insinuations designed more to score political points because I expect more of the hon. members. This was done on the backs of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, of the