

Government? Does he indeed accord any credibility to this promise whatsoever?

Mr. Kristiansen: I am not quite sure where to start, but I think I know how to finish.

The problem with the commitment, the sacred trust, or the promise, whatever it was, of the Government during the last election to the Government of the Province of British Columbia, and I do not think it was to the people of British Columbia because the people did not ever say that they really wanted it, was that it would provide significant money to build a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island. The Government appears to have done a bit of a shuffle on that. We are not really certain whether it is still committed to that.

Mr. Epp: Fully, \$150-million worth.

Mr. Kristiansen: So the figure of \$150 million is still there. I have a great deal of difficulty in keeping track of opinion in British Columbia in terms of whether or not the people of Vancouver Island want that natural gas pipeline. I know that most of the industries on Vancouver Island have stated that they have no great need for it. Many of the industries on Vancouver Island have suggested they have alternative means of energy production over which they have direct control that they would like to proceed with. This may or may not have a serious adverse impact on that development.

In the Throne Speech, as well as during the last election, the Government stated that the environment has the greatest of all considerations. Yet in the so-called planning process for this natural gas pipeline, the Government wanted to direct it through the main source of water supply for the greater Vancouver regional district. That has created an almost unheard of degree of unity and outcry among all the citizens of the lower mainland of British Columbia. All considerations of environmental impact studies were to be cast aside in somebody's headlong rush to establish the route for this pipeline. Apparently because of that strong, vociferous, and united stand by the citizens of Vancouver and the lower mainland of British Columbia, there has been a backtracking. We now have some assurances which I hope hold water, or gas as the case may be, that there will be a proper environmental impact study.

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Now, apparently, there is also some due consideration, whatever that means, to finding an alternate route perhaps up the east side of Indian Arm in order to circumvent the watershed of the lower mainland, if such a pipeline does in fact go ahead. On both the grounds of actual need and perceived need by the public, which does not seem to exist in British Columbia, and by virtue of the environmental impact, plus the need of this Government to supposedly save money to spend on other priorities, we really wonder where it is at. Again, the Government seems willing to spend money on a program that we do not know is needed. The people who supposedly want it do not know if they want it. However, the Government wants to spend the money even though it states that it has not got it.

• (1700)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say ye.

Some Hon. Members: Ye.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have been instructed by the Chief Government Whip to defer the division to a later time. Pursuant to Standing Order 45(5)(a) the division on the Bill now before the House will be deferred until tomorrow at 6 p.m., at which time the bells to call the Members will be sounded for not more than 15 minutes.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out to you, Sir, that at the point at which you called the question, the clock was very clearly past five o'clock. We had other speakers prepared to speak the next time the matter was brought before the House, but because of the haste in which you proceeded, we were unable to do that. That is why I forced the vote.