

Government Orders

The B.C. Ferries, the Department of Indian Affairs, the Department of Transport and the provincial Ministry of Transport could co-operate to place that facility there tomorrow and everybody would save a substantial amount of money.

The policy of this government is absolutely disgusting. It is bent on depriving people of an opportunity for a decent life, especially in this Indian community.

If this was the only problem maybe we could say: "Oh, well, it is just a small community on the coast of B.C." However, about 30 miles away is the community of Klemtu. Klemtu is the home of the Kitasoo Indian band, about 500 people scratching a living off probably one of the most barren areas in British Columbia. Coastal shipping is absolutely critical to them. Yet this government will not in any way help them. Their costs for food are similar. For example, a two litre carton of milk which would cost \$2 at Mac's Milk here costs \$6 in Klemtu if they can get it.

Just simply having decent coastal transportation that will dock there will help. There are two other Indian communities adjacent to it that nobody will service. However, if proper infrastructure was built in those communities so that they could move freight on and off their dock easily, if the federal government made an arrangement with the B.C. ferry system to stop in those Indian communities, the price of food would drop about 600 per cent; the cost of building houses and the cost of bringing construction equipment in there would also drop.

In these communities it costs more than \$500 to go to Vancouver and back. That is an outrageous cost. They cannot leave there. It costs too much money. Many people in those communities are unemployed and on social assistance. If there was decent coastal transportation from Vancouver direct, such as the ferry service or another coastal shipping operation, that cost could be cut in half. As well, the service could virtually be guaranteed in all weather. It is astounding that the attitude of this government is to cut, cut, cut. What is happening is that it is cutting into its own spending. It is amazing what it has done. It is prepared to deny these people a decent transportation system, a roll-on, roll-off facility to connect to the B.C. ferry system. At the same time, it is willing to pay 600 per cent higher costs in food. It is willing to pay higher costs for fuel, oil, gasoline and

diesel in the community. It is willing to deny, in the case of Ocean Falls, these communities medical and dental health, and other critical services.

It is a strange thing. It pays for the cost of the housing in those communities at outrageously inflated costs because they have got to be brought in by barge, and in some cases by landing craft. This is an intolerable situation. It is allegedly saving money on one hand and then throwing it away with vigour on the other because the people have to live, must have housing and food. Yet the federal government will pay them as long as they are on welfare. This is a government that actually facilitates the growth of the welfare system by denying some rational development in terms of a roll-on, roll-off ferry service in one area, and denying Klemtu a decent transportation system.

The people of Bella Bella have come forward with a plan. They want to put lights on the airport runway so they can have a reasonable scheduling of air services in and out of there, so that if somebody gets sick and needs a Medivac out they can do it more safely. They need a non-directional beacon on that airport so that there can be some instrument approaches made.

It is astounding. The federal government has been very, very reluctant to provide any of the infrastructure in that community that would allow safety, rational costs and the potential for economic development. It is time both for compassion for the people who live there and concern about their quality of life, which has been devastatingly poor because of the fact that nothing can be afforded. It is hard to get decent housing, it is hard to get food at a reasonable cost. It is truly time that this government woke up. Even with the wrong-headed economics practised by this group since 1984 and the devastating effect it has had on those communities, any kind of a sense of compassion would ensure that this happened.

It is amazing. The government packs off close to \$250 million to transport particles around in this KAON development. I am sure it was done as a political stunt in order to help a dead government but certainly that dead government will not benefit one ounce from that \$250 million from the federal government. It is viewed by most British Columbians as a joke, as is the waste of the \$250 million contribution by the provincial government.