

On March 24, the Exxon *Valdez* pulled loose. Apparently the captain was intoxicated. At least that is what has been reported. The man deserves a trial, and I assume he is going to get it fairly soon, as soon as the warrant is served and he is arrested. The third mate should not have been at the wheel.

• (2010)

The real environmental criminals in this issue are the ones who are at the top, Frank Iarossi for one. There need to be laws in this country, laws in the United States, and international laws around the world to deal with the Iarossi of this world.

For three days after the Exxon *Valdez* ran on to Bligh Reef nothing was done. I have spoken to oil spill experts. Frank Iarossi never picked up the phone and asked for containment booms from Canada, from Alaska, from Washington, from California, or from Hawaii where Exxon had another spill of 125,000 litres. There was another massive spill in Antarctica. Of course it is the B.C. coast that has been getting the most recent spills.

However, what did Exxon do? For three days there was no wind, no problem. The oil was still in Prince William Sound. That vessel should have had at least three containment booms around it and the slick lickers should have been operating around the clock cleaning up the oil. That spill is now 2,700 square kilometres, which is half the size of the Province of Nova Scotia. It is a monster and it is starting to come out of Prince William Sound. Prince William Sound is basically contained by islands, but the oil is now pushing its way out through Montague Strait passed the Bligh Reef. As it moves out, pieces of the spill are peeling off and are moving south westerly, according to Exxon this evening.

A northerly wind is blowing over the height of land from Cook Inlet down toward Prince William Sound, keeping the oil from going on to the coast. We now have 750 miles of coastline either dead or dying. The seal otters are dying. The seals are dying. The whale pods are moving through and the blow holes are polluted. The herring are contaminated. The crabs are contaminated, and then there is our halibut, the eggs of the halibut. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the eggs are laid on the ocean floor of the Queen Charlotte Islands. They hatch and go up and live as worms near the surface of the ocean. They drift up into the Panhandle of the Gulf of Alaska. They live near the surface.

S. O. 52

An oil slick that size is killing hundreds of millions of juvenile halibut. Our dungeonness crabs, which everyone from the State of Alaska to British Columbia loves to eat, live as juveniles in the surface waters and float along on those currents that move up along the Aleutians and with the Kiero Shield current down of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Death and destruction is massive.

I am serious when I say people like Frank Iarossi are environmental criminals. They are the ones who should be before the courts, not Mr. Hazlewood. Exxon knew he had a drinking problem. Why did Exxon have someone with a serious drinking problem at the head of VLCC carrying that kind of uncontainable damage and destruction if it ever got into the west coast and its environment?

My friend reminds me of something. Why wasn't there a pilot vessel guiding the tanker out of Prince William Sound? Why? It is always the bottom line for the big tanker companies and big oil companies. Why wasn't the *Valdez* guided out to clear water? Why was the third mate there? The captain was below deck, possibly intoxicated, because Exxon management did not have the kinds of enforcement mechanisms in place to make sure something like this did not happen.

I come now to one of the discouraging parts: how our own Coast Guard and our own Ministry of Transport, the lead agencies, have handled the situation today. We have now heard, almost on a daily if not an hourly basis since March 24, "Don't worry, be happy. The spill is 1,000 kilometres from Canadian territory". As I pointed out today, every Member of Parliament gets an atlas sent to his or her office. There is a map in it from Energy, Mines and Resources. As I pointed out, the mouth of the Alsek River is 200 miles from where the slick is as it comes out of Montague Sound. One would have to be a highly suspicious person— and, Mr. Speaker, you know I am not—but some gerbil somewhere decided "Well, let's keep the public calm. Tell them it is so far away it is out of mind. Nobody needs to worry about it". That is amazing. I know that British Columbia exists at about the latitude 54. If I had been alive in 1903, the Panhandle would have been part of Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fulton:** I do not know why the 1,000 kilometre figure continues to be used. It was used right until today. We know that it is not even 100 kilometres from Montague Sound to the Queen Charlotte Islands. I do not know where this mysterious 1,000 measure comes from. I do know that 750 miles of coastline is now covered. The distance to British Columbia from the slick, where it is starting now to purge itself out of Prince William Sound and out of Montague Sound, is 200