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still bags of oil lying on the beach to be picked up. Who knows when that will happen. Those volunteers spent thousands of hours collectively and were not given so much as a thank you. They were not given support necessary to make their efforts successful.

Many of them still believe that that oil spill in the volume of 875,000 litres spread across hundreds of miles of the West Coast was in fact a gift because it showed them how inadequate the system was to deal with. Yet we had been lulled into 20 years of complacency by the Government saying that everything is fine. Modern technology is there, and we have great inventories.

It is interesting that nobody in this day can clean up an oil spill on the high seas. That does not exist at this point. I have seen a model built by an individual named Bill Wylie who lives in Courtenay that in fact appears that it will clean it up. He suggests that seiners on their drums should be carrying a boom, and that those booms on the seiner drums should be deposited in every port up and down the coast of British Columbia. The minute it is time to go, a seiner captain picks up a couple of drums, drops the booms in the water around the spill and waits until the hardware can be brought to the place.

The interesting thing about him is that he has been snubbed by every Government Department responsible for seriously looking at this issue. To this point in time it appears to be the only thing that I see that works. It works in wave action, in wind situations, and it actually recovers the oil and puts it into a caisson which can be drawn back off into a tanker. It is not burned and it does not sink. It is basically a good idea that nobody will listen to.

Back we go even further, Mr Speaker. I know that we will not have a public inquiry. The Tories do not want it, and it is a political issue. I appeal to every municipality on Vancouver Island and the coast of British Columbia to co-operate in sending a delegation to meet with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to demand that it happens. Every regional board, every Indian band, every tribal council on the coast of British Columbia should be pressing the Prime Minister to do the responsible thing, call that public inquiry so that we are not trying to solve these problems in the House of Commons, that we can work from a base of knowledge that would be produced from that inquiry and the recommendations from it, and that collectively we can work in the House together to protect that coast, to prevent spills, and to clean them up efficiently when it happens.

The way to end partisanship is to appoint somebody of the quality of Judge Dubin to head a public inquiry,

provide a chance for everybody affected to have a say, and bring forward decent recommendations from technical experts who will let us do our job in this House.

• (2400)

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock): I would like to begin my remarks by urging Members to read and reread the remarks made by the Member for Western Arctic (Ms. Blondin). There have been some good speeches made tonight, but I think hers above all others was eloquent. The whole speech deserves attention.

I do not mean to avoid the body of her speech that dealt with the preservation of the environment and the culture in her region of the country but I want to focus on the first two points that she made. One was that she attended a board meeting in Calgary where evidence was presented that a consortium of companies in Calgary offered in the first two days to help Exxon clean up the mess in the first two days, and the company refused it. If that is true and she has evidence to lay on the table, the company ought to have charges laid against it for refusing help like that.

Secondly, I wish members of her own Party and members of the New Democratic Party would listen to what she said when she gave an inventory of the things that the Canadian Government and the Canadian people did regarding the Valdez spill, just out of one location, and that was Yellowknife. She gave a complete inventory of the aircraft used, the equipment on board, and the people who flew to Valdez to help in the clean-up.

The next person speaking for that Party ignored this information and said the Canadian Government should have done something. Talk about a dialogue of the deaf! They do not even hear what their own Members are saying. So I hope Members will again refer to the remarks of the Member for Western Arctic.

I want Members to know that the people of Surrey—White Rock understand what it means to experience an oil spill. Eighteen years ago there was a small accident at Cherry Point. The bunker crude oil from Cherry Point refinery washed up on the beaches of White Rock.

I was amazed at the Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett) who mentioned that oil spill and complimented the American kids who helped clean up the mess in the States ignored totally the Canadian kids from White Rock who were organized by the teachers in the schools to go down to the beach and clean up the mess. For once, that New Democrat praised an American; but in doing so, he annoyed and ignored the