

Amax Limited

been a very honourable participant in all of this. While he was Minister of the Environment he provided me with documents. I did not have to go to him and cower. I simply went to his office and he gave me access to documents. It is too bad he is not still the Minister of the Environment because he has some honour, something which Members on the other side know very little about. I quote from a document provided to me dated March, 1979, headed "Position of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the disposal of tailings into Alice Arm". It reads:

Consultants on behalf of Climax Molybdenum have indicated that a tailings pond system with a supernatant overflow can be constructed, operated and maintained based on engineering considerations alone.

It goes on to state:

In considering tailings and impoundment possibilities for the Kitsault Project, three potential sites were examined. The initial estimated cost for an adequate impoundment facility is approximately \$25 million.

B.C. Hydro has estimated this cost for power transmission lines for pumping at another \$4 million. On-land disposal would require reclamation at the end of the mine life which would result in some further costs. In contrast, marine disposal of tailings is estimated at \$6 million for capital costs with low operating costs.

There you have it. A private deal was made with Amax. I think we all know that the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Mr. John Aird, a leading bag person for the Liberal Party in Ontario and Canada for many years until just three days before he became Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, was on the Board of Directors of Amax. He was the only Canadian on the Board of Directors of Amax International. When he stepped down on September 12, he was promptly replaced by none other than the previous President of the United States, Gerald Ford. I will be alluding to the direct relationship between Senator Aird, who was appointed to the Senate by the Liberal Party, his present position, his former position on Amax, as well as the involvement of his law firm, Aird & Berlis.

● (1540)

The Amax Corporation hired Aird & Berlis as their company lawyers. Mr. Granger, who works for Aird & Berlis, was involved in the drafting of the regulations from the beginning right up to the Privy Council Office, before a decision was made by the scientific team in British Columbia as to whether or not to go for on land or marine tailings. I, and I believe hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have written about this matter, consider it to be extremely corrupt.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker I rise on a point of order. I want to ask the Chair if it is correct for the Hon. Member to cast aspersions on the Queen's representative of the Province of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I take it that the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan) is intervening to ask whether or not it is appropriate. It is my recollection that this matter has come before the House

previously. I believe the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) raised the same subject matter.

At that time, I believe I had to review the precedents in order to determine if this type of debate was in order. I am aware of a Standing Order which does call for respect for a certain stated list of individuals in Canada. I would want to review that again.

I believe that the proper procedure at the moment is for the Hon. Member for Skeena to continue his speech and the Chair will take into consideration the point raised by the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys. On the last occasion, I believe the Hon. Member for Skeena was permitted to continue his speech under similar circumstances. I will review the matter immediately and the Chair will continue to recognize the Hon. Member for Skeena.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member will read my speech. He will see that everything I have said is factual. Far be it for me to cast aspersions since Mr. Aird became the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. I am simply reiterating his history.

Some other interesting documents have come to light in this matter. They involve about 200 documents that the Government is hiding. In almost any other democracy in the world, these documents would have been immediately released. However, the fact that we have a Liberal Government that practices authoritarianism with respect to the release of documents in the House speaks for itself.

In order to give some background, I will quote from a document which I obtained entitled "Chronology of the Drafting of the Alice Arm Tailings Deposit Regulations":

On February 24, 1977, the Metal Mining Liquid Effluent Regulations were passed. In effect, they prohibited the unconfined disposal of solid tailings into waters frequented by fish. On June 22, 1977, Amax first met with EPS Pacific to discuss the MMLER and Amax's desire to have marine disposal of tailings in Alice Arm.

What is interesting about the document from which I just quoted of, March, 1979 is that the consultants working for Amax had already decided that it was possible to do safe on-land tailings disposal. The costs had been itemized to reveal that there was only a 2 per cent difference on return on investment to have safe on-land tailings.

There is the technical side to the argument as to which is safer. I suggest that the case has now been proven to most Canadians that it would make more sense, provide more jobs and be more environmentally sound to go on-land.

I am now concerned with the technical matter which the House will have to vote on quite soon. We have an hour and 40 minutes of debate remaining on this matter. When it comes time for all Members of the House to vote, I hope that Members of all Parties will return to their caucuses and determine whether democracy is being served as a result of their vote on Motion 109, Motion 110 and Motion 111. It is not a question of whether the Member for Skeena, the Anglican Church, the Nishga's or anyone else would be served, but whether democracy is served by voting on whether documents written by