

• (2310)

A pod of killer whales had been sighted going through the water where the oil lies, birds and fish are dying, and yesterday a dead deer was found on a nearby island with its intestines contaminated. Deer are at the top of the food chain. That means that not only animals which are covered with the oil are being affected, but those which depend on other animals in the chain for food are impacted as well.

There are 6,000 Alaskans in that region who depend on the fishing industry for their livelihood. There are two industries, oil and fishing. Why Mr. Exxon thinks he can compensate those residents is ludicrous.

The oil that has spilled from the tankers is thick and waxy because it has been highly heated to flow through the pipeline. Therefore is going to stay in that water and along that coastline and have devastating effects for years to come. Those fishermen cannot be reimbursed by a cheque from Exxon. Those people cannot be compensated for a way of life gone bad.

Exxon, one of the largest multinational and powerful companies in the world cannot right this tragedy. They have done virtually nothing to mitigate the impact on the wildlife or the people.

There was an individual who under unfortunate circumstances brought about the spill. I think it is up to the Government to take some action. The man in charge was a third mate who did not even have proper qualifications. He was 10 miles off course. The Exxon *Valdez* tanker was two years old, and was supposedly of a state-of-the-art design with the latest navigation equipment, but was not even double-hulled. The best tanker that Exxon has in its fleet did not have the technology in the place where it truly counts.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Blondin: We need high level international dialogue to deal with this devastating situation. Since *Valdez* opened in the early seventies, over 5 billion barrels of oil have been shipped from that port, 2 million barrels per day for one quarter of the U.S. consumption, and Exxon cannot invest in proper equipment, trained personnel or come up with a half decent contingency plan. I hope that we have learned from this.

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President Bush sent his personal advisers to Alaska to get a first-hand look at the catastrophe and they returned to Washington within two days to report that all was well. I hope Canadians will never be overpowered by a giant corporation like Exxon which has abused its power in the United States. Despite this and without a review of the entire event, President Bush says he will continue with plans to drill oil in the Alaska wildlife refuge. This attitude shows absolutely no care and no stewardship for the environment that we as Canadians need to consider. This crime against the people of northern America and the environment adheres to no man's laws when things go wrong. The kinds of situations that arise adhere to no man's laws. They adhere to no man's boundaries. International agreements have to be struck. There has to be high level international dialogue to deal with this problem and it has to be done now. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hour is late and I do not want to repeat some of the very excellent comments made by my colleagues in the House this evening or to be redundant, but I think some of their insights bear some repetition.

There are times when the adversarial nature of the proceedings in this House are sadly inappropriate. By tradition the distance between the two sides of this House is two sword lengths, but tonight it might as well be a million miles. We are discussing the tragedy that concerns all of us, but the opposition Parties cannot resist creating conflict where there ought to be common purpose.

I believe the Canadian people want to see co-operation in responding to the issues raised by the Alaska oil spill. They are impatient with shrill partisanship and a holier than thou posturing. What the opposition Parties have given us tonight is a depressing mixture of distortion, cant and selective amnesia. Some of my colleagues have already stated a proposition that runs counter to the natural reflexes of the members of the Opposition. That proposition is that the Government of Canada did not create the Alaska oil spill. It should be obvious, but you would never know it from the tone of the Opposition. I think it is important to reflect on the moral premises underlying much of their commentary this