right under this motion to raise certain questions, which apparently cannot be raised in any other way, which have some urgency attached to them.

I am sure the President of the Privy Council, who apparently is charged with the responsibility of piloting this motion through the house, will not be at all surprised if I indicate that I desire to rise at this time to discuss the question of the amount granted by the federal government to the Alberni valley and west coast disaster fund to assist the re-establishment of the victims of the tidal wave disaster which struck the west coast of Canada following the earthquake in Alaska at Easter. I think the fact that I am raising it will surprise him less because His Honour the Speaker saw fit, when I rose to move the adjournment of the house on the day following the announcement by the Prime Minister that the federal government was contributing $250,000 to this fund, to disallow the motion and therefore no debate on this question was possible at that time.

The minister may recall that I did ask the Prime Minister a question on this subject on Tuesday when we reconvened following the Victoria day week end, and the Prime Minister had this to say with regard to the amount of the grant:

> Mr. Speaker, it seems to me and to the government, having regard to the measure of the damage —and I do not depreciate that—and having regard to the responsibilities of the provincial government and the resources of the provincial government, that the federal contribution of a quarter of a million dollars is fair in the circumstances, and is in accord with the principles which have been followed in the past.

At this point I might just make some reference to the last phrase in that statement, namely "and is in accord with the principles which have been followed in the past". My own feeling is that one of the reasons there has been misunderstanding and some measure of political controversy arising out of this question, and one of the reasons there has been expressed a great measure of dissatisfaction with the contribution made by the federal government, not only by me as a member for the district but by people of the area, is precisely because of the fact that there really have been no principles in the past which have been followed in this connection. Some members of the house may be a little surprised at the reaction to this amount, because it is quite true that it is not every day of the week that the federal government decides to make a contribution of a quarter of a million dollars, which in some circumstances could be regarded as a fairly substantial amount.

I want to assure the committee, Mr. Chairman, that in raising this question I certainly am not speaking only for myself. Newspaper headlines do not always give a very accurate impression of the situation which exists, but I think in this situation the newspaper headlines which appeared in the press of the area on May 14 and 15, immediately following the Prime Minister's announcement, give a very accurate summation of the reaction of the people in that area. The headline of the lead story in the daily *Free Press*, which is published in Nanaimo, of May 14 says "Ottawa gives meagre sum of $250,000 to Albernis". In the following day's issue of that newspaper the headline reads "Federal donation brings only anger to Albernis". I think the house will agree that headlines indicating a reaction of that kind in some respects put a very anomalous situation before the house, because normally when the government takes action to make a grant or a donation we in this house expect that the contribution will be received with at least a fair amount of appreciation, if not gratitude.

I want to make it quite clear at once that my personal reaction to this situation is very much in accord with the sentiments expressed in those newspaper headlines. I want to try to explain to the committee some of the reasons for that situation, not only in the minds of the people in the area but also for my own reaction as the representative in this house of those people. It arises out of a situation which perhaps it may be difficult for people like the President of the Privy Council or the Minister of Finance, who come from different parts of Canada, to appreciate. I think those of us who have had an opportunity of becoming familiar with the situation, however, can understand it. I feel quite sure that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources—whom I am glad to see in the committee—has some understanding of this situation. I should not be at all surprised if he himself may not be somewhat disappointed that the amount of the contribution was not substantially larger in view of the particular circumstances, although I realize that he, being a member of the government, is not free to express such feelings even if he might wish to do so.

The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources did give a good deal of detailed attention to this situation, and I would like to say that in the dealings I have had with him, as the local member, I have found him most co-operative and helpful in many ways right from the outset of this situation. Nevertheless the facts remain as I have stated them as far as the reaction to this federal contribution is concerned.