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THE HONOURABLE K. W. DAVIDSON, SPEAKER

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it was. I was quite happy to see that the present Minister of Environment managed to find it. They managed to study it, and they brought in a report. There is great potential in the Brooks Peninsula.

You talk about Robson Bight. The Parks ministry have done a study on that area. They have made recommendations for a class A park, and it took two years to get the ministry even to let me see it. So we have another study on it. I don't think in any of the recommendations did they really take seriously the recommendations that were in the study made by the technical staff of the parks branch that indicated that Robson Bight is a potential destination place for all of North America. It is one of the few areas where you can go and you can watch the killer whales rub on the beach. I know when you talk to the people in that area they say the big problem with it right now is because it got too much publicity. Now everyone is going up there, and boats are going into that area where the killer whales come in and are harassing them. You can have 20 boats up there. It only takes one idiot with a ten-horse outboard motor to go out and harass that resource. That is a potential tourist resource of the killer whales.

The Americans have spent millions on a geyser in the states, and we have a far bigger potential and absolutely ignore it. The government sits there and makes their snide little remarks, and they don't look at that potential. They don't even look at the report. They move the boundary away, the recommendations to put it under the parks branch and have some protection, which is needed. The people who have been studying it and who are experts on it have been saying this year after year, but the government does nothing. They hide behind their smokescreen laid down by this minister, laid down by this minister to do nothing, and they have no intention of doing anything.

By the time the NDP come to power, all the trees will be cut down and the whales will be dead, and the Senator over there will be saying: "Why don't you do something? Why don't you bring them back?" We'll have to hire his running-mate to find out what happened to the whales. But this is what is happening. Mr. Chairman: you are doing nothing. You're not looking and you're not listening. That's worst of all: you're not listening to those who have studied it, those who have been involved, and you're not accepting the responsibility that a government should accept.

Every one of these issues can be solved. Every one of these areas must be solved. If a moratorium was put on every one of the areas that the government has identified as being environmentally sensitive, it would add only another 2 percent to the timber that can't be harvested. So either do something positive or put a moratorium on all the areas that you have recommended to be studied, and at that time bring in the proper legislation to do the fine-tuning. None of these areas — I say this in all due deference to the minister and his whole ministry — can be fine-tuned by running a line around a flat piece of map.

It is a lot easier for a bureaucrat to come to the minister and say: "Now this is the area I think it should be." He runs a nice black or red or purple line around it, and the minister, who doesn't know the area As the critic I know that some of the areas I can't even pronounce, let alone know the areas in detail. But you have a nice line around it and politically you can get up in the House and say: "Now we're going to do this and we're going to do that." But you don't know the area. You don't know the potential, and you have to listen to the groups from those areas like the one in south Moresby and

the Queen Charlottes, the Cascade wilderness areas. There are groups, such as the Lovers of the Stein, or whatever their particular group is Every one of these groups has studied it, and every one wants an opportunity to sit down with somebody in the ministry — the Ministries of Forests, Parks, Tourism and Environment.

Until we start doing something — instead of smoke-screens and talk — that is going to be constructive, that is going to create a potential for more jobs, we're going to continue going from one disaster to another. I find it embarrassing for all those people who worked on that particular committee, who made recommendations, who travelled at great inconvenience all over the province, who heard briefs presented by hundreds and hundreds of well-meaning British Columbians, who believed this government was going to do something, who didn't believe the cynical opposition when they said it's just another smokescreen, just another dodge to get away from facing the issues. The minister gets up and says: "Well, it hasn't been officially received." It could sit there, and he could get up until the end of his term of office saying it has not been officially received. I don't know what it takes to be officially received, but I imagine someone paid for this printing. And it didn't come to me in a brown envelope; it came with a nice card from the minister — for my information, to study. This is the issue that I think the minister Don't be suckered into doing something that the rest of the cabinet are afraid to do. Come on in and make a recommendation. Take a stand. If you take that stand, good or bad, we will support it.

MS. SANFORD: During last year's estimates I raised with the Minister of Environment an issue which is quite significant within my constituency. It relates to the Mount Washington copper-mine, which closed down some years ago, and which is now causing untold problems as far as the fishery is concerned. I'll just review with the minister the fact that many years ago there used to be over 200,000 pink salmon in the Tsolum River every year. That diminished and dwindled down, mostly as a result of logging practices over the years. Stocks began to come back, until the leaching from the Mount Washington mine began. Now there are absolutely no salmon in the Tsolum River. I mentioned this to the minister last year, and I subsequently had correspondence from him. It's almost a year ago that I had a letter from the minister, indicating that it is an issue of concern and that the Ministry of Environment is collaborating with federal Fisheries, via Environment Canada, and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in analyzing the historical water quality data.

They say they've already set up contact with these various organizations, but I would like to know whether or not, at this stage, there is any ministry that will assume responsibility for the cleanup involved there. Based on the preliminary information that I have, the costs could be quite extensive. Will it be a joint federal-provincial project? Are the Mines people going to be involved? Has anybody assumed any responsibility, at this stage, regarding the cleanup of that particular project?

The second issue that I would like to raise is one that has already been raised in this Legislature, but I feel that I must say something on it as well. This relates to the use of herbicides and pesticides in the province. We have within the constituency of Comox two watershed areas that are now going to be sprayed, according to permits that have been

issued through the Ministry of Forests. The people in our area are very concerned about the use of these aerial sprays in watersheds. It may be that they don't have all the information that they should have; it may be that some of these herbicides and pesticides are quite safe to use; but it may also be that they are not safe to use. I think that the experience we have all been through this last week, with the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, has given us some kind of insight into what can happen with the way in which we are galloping ahead in terms of the use of nuclear power, and various herbicides, pesticides and poisons that we are putting into our atmosphere. We've all been assured about the safety of power plants. We see what can happen. We've all been assured that it's safe to use these sprays in various parts of the province, but we can also wonder at the impact that these poisons are having not only on wildlife but on humans as well.

I think if you look at the increase in the number of diseases that seem to be afflicting people in British Columbia, Canada and North America, for that matter, it's time that we had a second look at the ways in which we are allowing people to get permits. I realize a lot of this is approved under the federal government, through Agriculture Canada, but I think that the minister, in his concern for the environment and for the impact that some of these herbicides and pesticides may have on people, should use whatever influence he can with the other members of his cabinet — Forests, Agriculture and others that are inclined to have a lot to do with these herbicides and pesticides — and with his federal counterpart, in terms of let's have a second look, let's ensure that the safety is there when we approve these products.

[11:15]

People are alarmed. I know that based on a meeting that was held in Fanny Bay, where most of the community was out, they were, to a person, opposed to the use of Roundup within the Fanny Bay watershed. There are alternatives. I think this is what the minister should be looking at. There are alternatives, certainly in terms of brushing and weeding within the industry. Many of the people in the communities are now attempting to convince the Forest Service that if they are given the job themselves within that community of ensuring that that brushing and weeding is done, it will be done.

Already the Forest Service has granted people in the Merville area the right to do the brushing and weeding in exchange for no spraying. The Forest Service has at least bowed, to a certain extent, in recognition of the fact that people are alarmed about it. They're opposed to it. Who knows what effects these various sprays have on people? I would like the minister to comment on those two issues.

HON. MR. PELTON: First of all, on the Mount Washington mess — and I think it's only fair to call it that — although it has taken what might seem to be an inordinately long time, a report is in its final stages. It's being prepared. I haven't seen it yet, but I'm told within the ministry that it is in its final stages. Dealing with this subject, the parties to that report were the federal Environment department, our provincial Environment ministry, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the federal Fisheries people. I haven't any idea what's in the report, but I expect that it will deal with the extent of the problem and with what might be done to clear it up. I'd be pleased to share that with the member for Comox when it becomes available.

The matter of the herbicides and pesticides . . . I'm sure everybody would agree, in spite of the things that are

tossed back and forth across this room, that the Ministry of Environment, or the province of British Columbia, is very concerned about pesticides and herbicides and the use thereof. We feel very confident that we have in this province probably the toughest regulations and rules in the whole of Canada with respect to the issuance of these permits. I know that the hon. member realizes that this is all we do. We issue the permits. But we are involved because of the concern that we know everyone has, and that we have, about the use of pesticides and herbicides. The member can be assured that to the very utmost of our ability within the ministry, before permits are issued, we endeavour to acquire every possible bit of knowledge and information that we can that will ensure that the decision that we make as to whether or not to issue a permit is the right decision.

I might also mention that for some time, nine or ten months now, we have been — and this came about as a result of a CCREM meeting that we attended in Toronto — arranging to get more information out of Ottawa, out the the federal Ag people, on the background they have on a lot of these pesticides and herbicides. Some of these things are protected under the Patent Act. That makes it a little difficult to get the information that we require, but we're actively pursuing it. I think we are gradually making some inroads. We have the federal Department of the Environment on our side, and all of the other Environment ministries — the provincial ones — throughout the land are also concerned about this. I'm hoping that as time goes by we will get more and more information about the various types of pesticides and herbicides that are being used.

I would just close by once again saying that we do our utmost to ensure that we consider everything. In watersheds we consider the fisheries, we consider all of these other things that are so important and so crucial to the people of our province before pesticide or herbicide permits are issued.

MR. MITCHELL: The biggest thing that this ministry has done is to set up the wilderness committee. I asked the minister a number of questions, and he didn't even have the decency to make any comment. I think that the people of British Columbia have a right to know that this government and that ministry that he leads is going to do something on the biggest thing he's done so far, which was set up the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Reflections on another member's honour are most unparliamentary.

MR. MITCHELL: I've asked a series of questions . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The comment with respect to decency was quite unparliamentary.

MR. MITCHELL: I've asked a series of questions. What is the government going to do? Is it going to take any of these recommendations, or is it going to continue to sit there with this report as long as they sat on the report that came from the south Moresby study group? Are they going to do anything? That's all we're saying. There are some excellent recommendations in there. Are we going to pick them out? Are we going to do any fine-tuning, or is this ministry just going to ignore it? It's not a personal attack against the minister. The environmental, forestry and tourism people have a right to