

interested, regardless of their Party, to be at all committee meetings. In this particular case the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) attended the committee meetings. He represented our caucus. He brings forward today those concerns which we are debating at this particular time in the House. The amendments we are debating are amendments which have been put forward by the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway on behalf of the New Democratic Party. I am pleased to see the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon getting up to express his concerns.

With respect to the substance of what the Hon. Member for Brampton—Georgetown (Mr. McDerimid) just said, I think it is important that we specifically recognize within this legislation the rights and concerns of native people. Last week in the House during Question Period much of our time was used in discussing information that was made public with regard to what is happening in the Manitoba region of the Department of Indian Affairs. It has come to the attention of the public that things are not all well within Indian Affairs, especially in the Manitoba region. There is a real question out there whether or not the Department has been acting in the best interests of the native people. It is because of this very concern and because of what we heard last week that the proposed amendments are felt necessary. Native people do not feel that their best interests are always represented by governments, regardless of political stripe. Quite often those people who have a special trust relationship with native people, that is, Government, Ministers and government departments, have other concerns. One of those concerns could be to have quick energy development. That is something which will take place when there is successful exploration. Companies involved will want to act quickly. One area in which they can move quickly, if they can get the Government to move in its decision-making process, is with regard to native concerns. In other words native people may be formally consulted but the actual consultations are mere lip-service as opposed to dealing with the legitimate concerns.

The series of amendments put forward by the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway are necessary. I think native people throughout Canada would be concerned if the Government refused to allow these amendments to be incorporated into the legislation. Again, I point to the incidents of last week. I point to the audit carried out with regard to the Department of Indian Affairs in Manitoba. I think there is a legitimate concern. The best way those concerns can be met is if amendments are passed in the House of Commons. Indeed, that is what the House should be doing with regard to government legislation.

● (1240)

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, I will not take more than a couple of minutes of your time. I wanted to make some comments with respect to that which was said by the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan). He is quite right in pointing out the dependence

on industrial activity that has occurred in the North. It does not take long for people to become dependent on changes.

Those who live in areas that are dependent on the resource industries get used to the boom and bust situation. It sometimes worries me that whatever a Government tries to do, it ends up making the peaks higher and the troughs lower. This certainly was the case with PIP grants. There was going to be a lot of activity any way on account of high oil prices. We put on top of that the PIP grant system which made that peak even higher than it would otherwise have been; consequently the trough is now a little deeper.

The Hon. Member talked about a presentation that had been made by the Regional Department of the Territorial Government on the situation in the delta. That was a very good report. I had the opportunity to read it and to speak with the people who drafted it. They made some very good recommendations. The federal Government has also started to act in that regard. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has appointed a special committee with a rather high-faluting title, the Action Force on Arctic Initiatives. I sometimes wish it had not been so named. Perhaps it gives people the idea that we are going to be able to do a little more than we will actually be able to do.

This committee comprised of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) as the Chairman, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) and the two Members of Parliament for the Northwest Territories has already embarked on some of those things to which the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys has referred.

We are making some moves with respect to training. The facilities of CFS Inuvik, the military base that had to be closed down on account of obsolescence, have been made available for a training college. We are beginning to work on the training aspects of it.

I will not belabour all the other things that are happening. The Hon. Member can rest assured that his remarks have not fallen upon completely stony ground.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The question is on Motion No. 3 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Vancouver Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.