

inland waters bill provides just such a strong regional water authority, an authority needed for effective planning of those northern water resources that are or will be considered to be of national concern.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I would like to return briefly to the question of water quality. This bill allows the water authority to write conditions for water quality protection into every water licence issued in the north. Failure to live up to these conditions can result in the suspension or cancellation of a licence. In other words, you pollute the waters of the north and you get your water cut off. Moreover, the water boards can set standards of water quality for any waters within a water management area. Polluters violating these standards can be fined up to \$5,000 per day.

The bill provides for water quality inspectors with powers to enter any plant, mine or other undertaking to investigate processes, take samples, examine production records, check abatement facilities and generally to collect facts on water quality management. We do not intend that the effectiveness of this legislation will be lost through halfhearted or weak administration.

Conservation in the north, Mr. Speaker, is a matter of great interest and concern to the present government. When I assumed responsibility for northern development, one of the first things I did was to ask my officials to tackle the problem of conservation north of 60. We had no time to lose. I indicated at the time that we must come forward with land use regulations and water quality legislation as soon as possible.

Much has been done since then, but more will have to be done. A broad program of land use and ecological research has been instituted by my department in co-operation with teams from various Canadian universities. Discussions are under way with industry and conservation groups on the question of environmental controls in the north. Also, during the last session of Parliament I introduced the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, and during this session, in addition to the northern inland waters bill, legislation will be forthcoming dealing with coastal waters as well as amendments to the Territorial Lands Act.

Historical patterns of development in this country, Mr. Speaker, have left us with one-third of our country relatively free of water pollution. We can and must prove to the nation and the world that we are willing and

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able to prevent and control water pollution in the Arctic. Minimum standards of water quality must be established at this time. We cannot afford to wait. I ask all members of the House to give the northern inland waters bill their full support.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, would the minister allow me a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member wish to ask a question?

**Mr. Comeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not agree that under Bill C-144, which has to do with Canada's water resources, the federal government can act alone without the assistance of provincial agencies, as provided under clause 11 of Bill C-144, as far as the management of water resources in the Yukon is concerned?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, under the bill introduced by my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) concerning the control over and the general policy on Canadian water resources, neither my colleague nor the federal government can act unilaterally in this field because many lakes and rivers are under provincial jurisdiction.

The bill I introduced today concerns the establishment, in the North, of an agency which will be empowered to control water use in these regions without having to deal with three or four different agencies. These boards will deliver permits in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories and people will deal with a single agency in order to secure permits for using water. As I said in my remarks, all this will mesh with the overall policy on Canadian waters.

[*English*]

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of problems raised by this bill and the speech by the minister which will be dealt with by my colleagues. However, there is one issue with which I want to deal and I hope the minister will take note of it. The bill defines the waters in question as being included in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. What we want to know is what are the Northwest Territories? Do the Northwest Territories include the islands of the Arctic archipelago?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.