

*Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill*

minister indicated yesterday in his statement that soon he will be recommending to the cabinet other measures relating to air and land pollution which are companion to the pollution control concepts which are contained in Bill C-202. He also said that matters of concern about pollution on the east and west coasts of Canada would necessitate the bringing in of legislation by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) relating to the pollution control in those areas.

So, while the provisions of the bill before us are acceptable and endorsable, because of the other companion pieces of legislation to which the minister referred and about which we have not heard anything, we can only hope at this stage—and I use the word “hope” not in an unkind way because I am sure that this will be the case if the bill before us is any indication of government policy right across the board—that they will be as valuable in the control of pollution and in the matter of our national integrity as is the bill before us. It is because this is an extremely valuable piece of legislation, as the minister said probably one of the most important that the government has introduced in the House, that the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), the leader of our party, said yesterday that officially, even though there does not appear to be any opposition to the bill, in order to indicate our position to the world and especially to our neighbour, the United States, we would like this Parliament to take a standing vote on the bill so that every member of the House can indicate the degree of unanimity which exists with respect to this matter.

It is important, therefore, not only for the government to declare its stand but also for the representatives of the people all across the nation to indicate that they endorse this particular measure. I must say as an aside, because we are interested in the unified approach and because we feel very strongly about this matter as Canadians, without considering the philosophical approach of any particular party—otherwise I would not have bothered to pay any attention to it—that I should like to make reference to the comments of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) last evening to which I listened with a great deal of interest. Regretfully, I read into his remarks an attempt to misinterpret the remarks made by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), the deputy leader of this party, primarily in order to create confusion and divisiveness in

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

the House where none was there and none was intended in the first place.

I point out that many, many years ago when this party to which I belong was called the CCF, 15 or 20 years ago in general terms, we had embarked upon a vigorous campaign, with our members in this House and throughout the country at elections and other times concerning the necessity of having a 12 mile territorial sea. We have no hesitation in putting that position forward and in saying that that is the identical thing we are concerned about today. Any attempt on the part of anybody to indicate that we have become lax in our position about that matter, lax in our position about Canadian sovereignty, is simply grossly misleading and is grossly misleading himself in understanding what the facts of the situation are.

Apropos of that, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that it was the party to which the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour belongs that steadfastly and regularly, in this House and elsewhere, refused to accept the concept of a 12-mile territorial sea. They maintained that three miles was as far as we could go because the Americans objected to anything more than three miles, and because that distance was established in the days when one could shoot a cannon out no more than three miles. But I go no further with this, Mr. Speaker. I only say it in passing because this debate involves our integrity, our honour, and the pride we should have in ourselves, so that we should not allow ourselves to follow the red herrings tossed out from time to time by those who seem to have spent their political lifetime engaging in that activity.

For many years there has been an erosion of Canada's integrity. There has been an invasion of our national structure, an invasion of our national concern about ourselves. The result of successive governments over the years operating under the guise of co-operative relations with the United States has been that the United States has really placed Canada in a position of subservience. Successive Canadian governments, with their oversensitivity about the matter of co-operation between nations on the North American continent have contributed to our being in that subservient position. This attitude that has been reflected over the years in military matters. It has certainly been reflected in economic matters, where a stronger and stronger control over our economy has been developed by companies outside Canada, most of them in the United States. Our lack of action in