

*Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*

**Mr. Barnett:** Will the minister permit another question? Does the minister think we would have available the information dealing with crude petroleum in waters, which information I understand is being produced under the direction of Dr. Patrick McTaggart-Cowan, if it had not been for the fortuitous accident of the *Arrow* in Chedabucto Bay? Would the government have undertaken that kind of research program?

**Mr. Chrétien:** I cannot speak about research being carried out in the Maritimes by the Department of Transport. We are now negotiating and consulting with the private sector and the National Research Council to carry out special experiments to clean up or regain oil in northern waters. This program will be developed off Alaska next summer. They have permitted my department to be present and take notes of what will be happening. They are willing to make the information available to my department.

We do not know what will happen if oil is spilled in cold water. Some say it could be easier to clean in Arctic waters because by some chemical phenomena it will become more solid. However, there are other problems. If the oil gets under the ice, it would create a hell of a difficulty to clean. We need to know more about that. There will be experiments in the waters off Alaska and Canada. It makes sense that we exchange information. The sooner we have this information the better off we will be.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** The minister in his remarks, at least as I interpreted them, referred to an increase in research in protecting the environment. He did not give the impression that it was a certain percentage more than prior to these disasters occurring. I wonder if the minister could enlarge and tell us how much more research is going on and what greater percentage is being spent?

**Mr. Chrétien:** I cannot give that information in terms of dollars. I know that we have increased the number of personnel who are now spending much more time on these problems. Unfortunately, I cannot state the amount of money that my department is spending on research. I stated earlier that research committees were formed. They are now working in two or three different fields. I also refer the hon. member to the ALUR program, the pipeline study in the Inuvik area and the two or three other experiments with oil to be conducted in the Arctic next summer.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

The voyage of the *Manhattan* is of great value. This step will probably open the North for easier development in the future. When I visited there ten days ago, I was quite impressed to see the icebreaker *Louis St. Laurent* operating in six feet two inches of ice. I was amazed at the facility of this ship, the best Canadian icebreaker that has been built.

**Mr. Benjamin:** I wish to ask the minister about the exchange of research and data. Is there any arrangement now for exchanges of information or will the minister consider attempting to reach an agreement with other Arctic countries such as Scandinavia and the Soviet Union who have undoubtedly done a great deal of work in this field? Is there a possibility of an exchange of information with those countries?

**Mr. Chrétien:** I believe so, Mr. Speaker. I was gratified by a meeting I had two months ago with the Minister of Technology of Russia. He was very keen to exchange information with Canada. I was invited to that country to see their development. I was delighted to accept the invitation. Although I do not know when I will be able to visit that country, I hope that it will be sometime this summer.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Before putting to the House the motion to be proposed by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt), I might suggest that there is a question in the mind of Mr. Speaker with regard to the acceptability of the motion. The motion seems to be in the nature of a sub-