

watersThey are not as strong as they need to be. We are on the way to resolving that problem with regard to the ice-breaker, and we are naturally considering other measures which will allow us to ensure and protect Canada's sovereignty....¹⁸

NDP member Nelson Riis asked for assurances about renewed US activities in the Beaufort Sea area:

...the last time this area was open to some dispute the Minister sent a comment to the United States authorities asking them to back off....they are now back again. Is that a clear indication that they have ignored the plea from Canada?¹⁹

Mr. Clark replied:

...what happened before was that a note of protest was sent. As a consequence of that note being sent, the second step...the issuing of leases, was not proceeded with. In that case, what we requested was acted upon. I trust the request we have made this time will be acted upon.²⁰

The issue of US activities east of the 141st meridian in the Beaufort Sea was also raised by Liberal member Lloyd Axworthy who asked about hearings going on in the US:

In his note of protest did the Minister specifically ask that the hearings now being conducted be stopped until this particular issue is resolved and the Canadian rights to those territories are clearly identified?²¹

Mr. Clark responded:

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., p. 1924.

22	<u>Ibid.</u>
23	<u>Commons Debates</u> , 19 Dec. 1986, p. 5296.
24	<u>Commons Debates</u> , 28 Jan. 1987, p. 5880.
25	<u>Commons Debates</u> , 23 Mar. 1987, p. 4417.