

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the Water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of Water resources, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time, now?

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, we think the government should at least have one night to reflect on its errors in this matter.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time, at the next sitting of the House?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) wishes to rise on a point of order which we should perhaps hear now.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the reported divisions have taken practically three quarters of an hour, perhaps the House may agree to give consent to allow me to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when the government will get around to installing electronic voting systems in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will recognize perhaps that this question should be more properly directed to the Chair. The Chair has noted the hon. member's comment.

ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT

PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPOSIT OF WASTE,
PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF WORKS,
SHIPPING SAFETY CONTROL ZONES, ETC.

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-202, to prevent pollution of areas of the Arctic waters adjacent to the mainland and islands of the Canadian Arctic, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni) moved:

That Bill C-202, an act to prevent pollution of areas of the Arctic waters adjacent to the mainland and islands of the Canadian Arctic be amended by adding thereto, on page 13, immediately after clause 13, the following:

"14. The Governor in Council shall cause to be undertaken by such agencies as he deems appropriate continuing programs of research directed to furthering the objectives of this Act."

and by renumbering the subsequent clauses accordingly.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it now seems quite some time since we had in this House what one might call a rather ringing debate at the second reading stage of this bill. I am sure you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the House will recall that we had a rather unusual vote on this bill when we had a unanimous recorded vote of members of the House. I refer to that in introducing this amendment because I want to say that, in my view, the consideration of this bill in the standing committee, by and large, bore out the view that was held in the House at the second reading stage. In other words, I feel that in the standing committee there was essential unanimity on the purposes of the bill as we examined its details and as we heard some of the expert witnesses that came before the committee. It is therefore, evident that the debate at the report stage of this bill is not likely to be as prolonged as it was on the bill with which we have just dealt in the numerous recorded votes a moment ago.

The purpose of my amendment, stated very briefly, is to strengthen the bill in its operation; in other words, to ensure that the purposes on which we were all agreed on second reading are fulfilled in a more adequate manner than I believe they may be without the amendment that I proposed. It was with that in mind that I decided to bring this amendment forward for the consideration of the House as a whole at this stage. There was some debate on the substance of the amendment in the committee, and various aspects of it were discussed there. I do not intend to repeat here, in the brief remarks I wish to make, all of the discussion that took place in the committee.

However, I think it should be obvious to hon. members that the essence of this amendment is based on the additional appreciation of the need to preserve the basic ecology of the north from harm, an appreciation which developed not only as a result of debate in the House on this and other bills in recent