

and the potential dangers of oil pollution in that area. The Arctic is a region important to all nations in its unique environment, its increasing significance as a world trade route and as a source of natural resources. We believe the Arctic beyond national jurisdiction should be subject to internationally agreed rules protecting its assets, both living and non-living, and have noted with pleasure the Canadian Prime Minister's public statement that Canada would be prepared to enter into multilateral efforts to develop agreed rules of environmental protection.

The sour note in there is the reference to "we believe the Arctic beyond national jurisdiction". Even though Ivan Head stated in the article I quoted that there was no dispute on the part of the American government with respect to Canada's claim for sovereignty over the Arctic, this now seems to be changed if we consider the statement made in Washington the other day. This means it is more important than ever that the government of Canada, the people of Canada and all the responsible leaders of Canada should speak with no uncertain voice concerning the matter of Arctic sovereignty.

Mr. Sharp: Then support us.

Mr. Dinsdale: We have been trying to push the government for several months. We have been trying to push the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister. This is where the whole debate began. If the Arctic is ours, we can come to the conclusion, on the basis of the latter part of the American statement which I quoted, that they are only too happy to co-operate with Canada in the matter of protecting the environment. Why all this tilting at windmills in connection with the present legislation?

• (3:10 p.m.)

Oil exploration in the Canadian High Arctic first began in 1961. In 1961, Dome Petroleum brought in a drilling rig via Montreal. It was carried across Canada from Calgary to Montreal and then loaded on a Danish ship, the *Thora Dan*, and taken through the Northwest Passage to Winter Harbour on Melville Island. In those days there was very little up-to-date information available to this group which was interested in exploration for oil in the north; it was necessary to go back to the archives and look up the charts which had been deposited there after the Peary expedition of the last century. This suggests that if the government intends to implement adequate controls in connection with the legislation now before us, it must move quickly to acquire the facilities and the

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means of doing so. I do not think very much progress has been made.

In the course of his opening statement in this debate, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Chrétien) expressed the view that if we really intended to come to grips with environmental control it would have to be done on the basis of international co-operation. The Prime Minister has also enunciated this principle, although he has contradicted himself in many respects. Former Secretary of the Interior Udall was one of the leaders of the war on pollution. He wrote a book, "The Quiet Crisis", which became a classic in the field when it was published in 1962. The book eloquently expresses the nature of the danger with which we are now endeavouring to wrestle. It has crept upon us silently and suddenly, almost overnight.

Unfortunately, we have lost ten years in getting to grips with a situation which was all too obvious when the Resources for Tomorrow Conference was held in 1961. One of the major recommendations of that conference was that there should be a management body with the comprehensive powers necessary to protect and preserve our water resources. In those days the Canadian and United States governments were working closely together to develop policies on environmental control. I would think that once the spokesmen for the government of Canada begin to speak with one voice on this matter it would be possible, instead of confronting the United States in this area, to work together with that country.

After all, our physical and biological environment is no respecter of natural boundaries. This is an international threat, and just as we have depended in the past upon the superior techniques and resources of the United States to deal with so many problems on the North American continent, so it will be necessary to approach this one not from the standpoint of confrontation but from the standpoint of co-operation.

Members of the Liberal Party are experts at raising straw men and knocking them down. I remember that the great issue in 1962 or 1963 was the failure of the Canadian government to co-operate with the United States government in continental defence. Those were the days—it was in the fifties—when the question was whether we should fly the Canadian flag in the Arctic: hon. members got into a great dither when it was discovered that Old Glory was flying there instead of the Red Ensign, as it was in those days. In the 1963 election Liberal spokesmen were beating