

amendment that expresses the wish of some members of the House in regard to this bill should be introduced at this time. As the hon. member for York West (Mr. Otto) pointed out, this question is covered in the preamble to the bill.

In addition to that, I think it would lead to duplication. Many committees have been formed comprised of all sorts of people. My own department is conducting research. The hon. member should know that there is very extensive research being carried out at this time at Inuvik, where an experimental pipeline has been built from which all sorts of data have been obtained. Last week I was in Washington discussing the situation with U.S. authorities, and I found them very impressed by the way we are tackling this problem in Canada, and by the fact that we are doing our homework.

I heard my good friend from the Prairies talking about horses getting out of the barn. I do not know this expression in English, though we have similar expressions in French. Last summer the *Manhattan* sailed into northern waters, and we welcomed the ship in the north because we felt it important in terms of seeing whether it was possible to develop the north economically. The *Manhattan* tried again this year and the experiment has made new progress in terms of knowledge. However, this voyage was subject to conditions laid down by this government. When I visited the *Manhattan* about ten days ago, I was happy to see the ship flying the Canadian flag. I was watching the situation and was delighted to notice that.

I think this bill covers all of the aspects raised by the hon. member. I appreciate the concern of hon. members who contend that research should be conducted in the north. My reply to them is that I feel we are doing lots of research now. All sorts of agencies of government are involved. If we were to pass this amendment, it would create pressure to set up some other body which would perhaps duplicate work being carried out at this time. It is quite possible for hon. members to question the officials of my department or of other departments about the research program when the departmental estimates are discussed by the various committees. All of the information in connection with research is available.

I do not want to be difficult, Mr. Speaker, but this amendment was debated in committee. A majority of the members who were considering this legislation, and were con-

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act cerned about the work of the government in the north, voted down the amendment, and for the obvious reason to which I have referred. I appreciate very much the words of wisdom of the hon. member and of those who supported the amendment. I can assure them that the government will take note of their wishes and preoccupations, which are very much in line with our own preoccupations. But I suggest that the amendment is not needed and that the House should not accept it.

Mr. Baldwin: Would the minister answer a question? He referred to the experiments being conducted by the *Manhattan*. Is he able to advise that the knowledge that is derived from these experiments, and the research conducted by the *Manhattan* crew, will be made available to the government of Canada without restriction, and will the government of Canada be free to pass on the benefit of that knowledge to other organizations and corporations that might be involved in the development and exploration of the north?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the way we cope with this problem is this. All of the data that the experts on the *Manhattan* trip are gathering at this time will be made available to the Canadian government. I think there is an arrangement whereby the private sector may acquire the information from the Humble Oil Company. I understand it is available to interested Canadians, Americans and Europeans. However, they must deal directly with Humble Oil. The data is available free of charge to the Canadian government.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Baldwin: I appreciate the information that the minister has given. I would like clarification of the latter part of my question. When this data is made available to the Canadian government, is it on terms which compel the government not to pass it on to others in the private or semi-private sector?

Mr. Chrétien: This data is available to the Canadian government. If the private sector is interested in this data, they must deal directly with the Humble Oil Company.

Mr. Baldwin: In other words, the Canadian government is not free to pass on this data to anyone else.

Mr. Chrétien: I explained the situation quite clearly.

Mr. Baldwin: That is why I put it that way.