

*Northern Inland Waters Bill*

have started from the beginning and we are not weakening in our position. I hope the explanation I have just given in respect of exportation of water will convince members of the opposition to revise their position and support this bill which will be studied clause by clause in the committee. At that time I will be delighted to testify and go into detail in respect of information I have in this regard.

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take too much time. I think we are speaking on the amendment. There are a few words I should like to say about the legislation before us. I listened with interest to the minister's speech. There are many clauses of this measure with which I agree, but one or two of the statements he made in respect of water planning should be looked at again.

The bill which is before us is a measure respecting inland water resources in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. As I see it, the bill will create two territorial water boards. There will be one board in the Yukon and the other in the Northwest Territories. Each will act with single authority in its respective area of regulation and enforcement as laid down under this water measure. I do not think there should be any area in Canada without some type of water act or without the proper regulation and central enforcement of such a measure.

At the present time the administration of water rights in the area outlined in the bill is a real hodge-podge of uncertain jurisdiction. We have federal departments with some control and regulation, and we have the territorial governments also with certain control and regulations. As the minister has indicated, it would appear at present that there is not too much co-ordination or co-operation between these groups in respect of the management of these water resources. As I mentioned earlier, the unification and centralization of responsibility for the management of water resources in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories is a step in the right direction. I have no hesitation in saying that. The minister has indicated that we can no longer afford to develop and manage our water resources in terms of single-purpose planning. This one section of his speech I agree with 100 per cent. The day of single-purpose planning, not only of water resources but of any resource, has gone for good.

• (8:40 p.m.)

As I say, he mentioned there would be no more single-purpose use of our water resources. I hope this is true and I trust that as a result of this bill we will see the type of water planning and management which has been sadly lacking in many parts of Canada. It seems to me it would be very easy when developing a single-purpose use of our water resource to completely overlook the vast potential that is often available on a long-term basis. This is what we have been doing for years and are still doing in Canada today. We have done this time and time again. There are many examples of this in my own area. However, I am not certain that as Canadians we have learned our lesson in resource planning. The step-up of activities in our great northland without the necessary ground rules and regulations being laid down is an indication that the present government is not too clear in respect of its plans for this one-third of Canada.

I intend to be rather brief, but there are one or two points I should like to make. I do not believe these points have all been touched on today in relation to the planning in respect of the resources in the Arctic area. I feel this is a special area in Canada wherein we face problems we do not have anywhere else. So far as Canada is concerned, it is a very special area. It is an area in respect of which Canada has not done very much research. It is an area in respect of which there are not many authorities on the problems of the Arctic and how we should go about overcoming them.

Planning for the whole north is difficult and different, not only because of the immense area involved or the sparse population but because of a totally different environment. This environment presents problems which are not normally encountered south of the 60th parallel. As I mentioned earlier, special studies and planning as well as special people are required. The problems concerning development of the resources will tax our ingenuity to the limit, if we are to keep our water in this area up to quality standards.

There is no doubt that today we simply do not have the necessary research to logically and sensibly lay down a full program for the area. I am convinced, as are many other people, that we must start a research program now. This research work should have been done years ago because there has been every indication for a long time that the move to the north for mineral exploration would