

Government Orders

happens to the environment in Quebec is none of our business.

What happens to the environment in Quebec is our business. It is the business of the Parliament of Canada, it is the business of everyone else who lives in Canada and of everyone else in the world.

Let us consider some of the things that are to be done in Quebec, particularly the Great Whale Project. It is everyone's business on planet earth that the province of Quebec wants to flood God knows how many hundreds and thousands of square miles in northern Quebec in order to create hydroelectricity. It is a fool's paradise to think otherwise, to think that this is just a parochial issue that everyone else should keep their nose out of. It is a fool's paradise but unfortunately it will not only be the fools who will suffer. Everyone suffers from this kind of myopia when it comes to the environment.

I want to make it very clear that although the NDP intends to vote against this bill because we do not think it goes far enough and because we are concerned about matters pertaining to regulation and possible exemptions, and issues such as that.

• (1820)

This is a bill which is an improvement over things as they are and a bill which recognizes the federal jurisdiction in these matters. We support that and we want to make it very clear that we do not have any association with the position which has been expressed whatsoever. The member for Skeena did so very clearly earlier on. However I think it needs some repetition.

This position that somehow the environment as it pertains to Quebec is not the business of the Parliament of Canada has to be rejected time and time again. I do not think it is an appropriate position.

One has to wonder what is really going on here. The hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands said that the members of the Bloc Quebecois were playing petty politics with this issue. There cannot be any stronger evidence than the fact that this bill was drafted and once introduced by the leader of the Bloc Quebecois when he was the Minister of the Environment, back in the old days before he had done his most current thing.

The fact is that this bill, particularly those parts which pertain to federal-provincial relations, jurisdiction, et cetera—presumably those issues which the members

find so objectionable, unless they feel that dealing with the whole notion of the environment is objectionable, presumably it is the federal-provincial aspects— remain untouched.

Those aspects are basically the same as they were in the previous bill, Bill C-78, that came before this House under the name of the Minister of the Environment, who now leads the Bloc Quebecois. If it were not against the rules I might ask about the coincidence of his absence during this debate.

I would not do that. Possibly members of the Bloc Quebecois might want to explain why the member for Saguenay is not here to defend the bill which he actually introduced himself.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Call in the members.

And the division bells having rung:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 45(5)(a), I have been requested by the chief opposition Whip to defer the division until a later time.

[Translation]

Therefore, pursuant to Standing Order 45(5)(a), the recorded division on the question now before the House stands deferred until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon when the division bells will ring for at most 15 minutes.