

require that this particular vessel be floated and that the energy it contains be put to some better use than is now the case?

In looking at His Excellency's recommendation I notice that it is intended to provide for the appointment of an Environmental Contaminants Board of Review, for the appointment of advisory committees, and for the designation of any person as an inspector or analyst. As I understand recommendations, these must be there because of the financial implications involved in these particular actions.

One area I do not see covered in this recommendation, and one I suggest we should not overlook, is research into possible contaminants or pollutants to ensure that proper measures of control are taken. This satisfies me to a certain extent, but I would like to have further assurances from the minister.

I notice in Clause 3 on page 3 of the bill the minister and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) are to be empowered under this particular provision to make use of the services and the facilities of other departments of the government of Canada or of any agencies thereof, by which I understand, and I hope I am correct in my understanding, this would mean the Defence Research Board, the National Research Council and other research agencies. However, there is no provision made for assigning to these research bodies the areas of inquiry or research into matters covered by the bill, and I think some consideration ought to be given to this. I welcome that particular clause at page 3 because it does go that far anyway.

I welcome also the reference to provincial consultation, and the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) who spoke just before me did mention the existence of a federal-provincial consultative body, the ministers of resources, which I think is a body that must be used more and more to ensure that there is not any heavy-footed federal interference in provincial jurisdictions, but that the provisions of the law that are applied across Canada shall be implemented, where they have to be implemented, provincially and not by imposition from the outside.

I note on pages 7 and 8 of the bill some reference to the tabling of reports which are prepared by the board and a decision as to whether those reports might be made public or whether they might be retained in the hands of the government rather than made public. We have had experience with government's refusing to table reports which, from all outward appearances, ought to be public documents. I am wondering whether it would not be a worthwhile amendment to suggest, and perhaps this will come out but I put it forward for what it is worth at the moment, that the device of having so many members of the House requiring a debate on the decision regarding whether a report ought to be made public and possibly referred to the appropriate committee, be adopted. The matters covered in any of these reports are bound to affect Canadians from one side of the country to the other, and it is not right or proper for any government to allocate to itself the decision on the matter of whether the report should be made public. There should be provision here I feel for parliamentary consideration of that particular aspect of tabling reports.

### *Environmental Contamination*

I mentioned a little earlier the matter of pollutants, and particularly oil, as there is a fear that this will become more and more a source of pollution in our waters. I take this opportunity to welcome the note which was presented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) to the United States government not very many weeks ago, and which he tabled in the House. I am very glad that note was tabled as we now know some of the matters that were hinted at in that note. I am wondering whether this bill could be of assistance in that particular field.

What is needed in addition to these agreements is the ability to enforce the undertakings we make, or the things we insist on in any agreement we have with United States, be they navigational standards, construction standards or other standards. I have mentioned the *Irving Whale* and the possibility of oil pollution in that regard. I have good reason to believe from talking with technicians, people competent in the art, that this particular vessel could be floated, and I am wondering why it has not been. I have heard for example, that this might involve a legal matter because the insurance on the cargo has been paid and it should not be raised because there might have to be some compensation or reimbursement to the insurance company. I ask whether this is really a telling argument. Surely, a hulk lying on the floor of the sea must be a fair prize available to any organization, person or government agency which has the wit and whim and funds to raise it. I find the legal argument that has been put forward to me a rather specious one.

● (1600)

I feel reasonably certain that some of the other matters that this bill is intended to cover are such things as industrial effluents from pulp mills and iron and steel mills, again matters where provincial consultation will be most important. I think the provinces are doing all they can, and I hope they will welcome the added strength which this bill will give.

I have one further inquiry in respect of one degree of contaminant in the food we eat. I refer to fish and one particular species. I would refer to the research work in relation to mercury contamination, not only in respect of fresh water fish but also fish on the high seas. A swordfish industry did exist. It was brought to an untimely end because it was felt that the mercury content of the swordfish was too high for human consumption. My understanding is that, because of the nature of the beast and the way it feeds, the swordfish is a mercury carrier if you like. Swordfish is still eaten as a delicacy in many parts of the world. Anyone who visits Istanbul will know about the delicious swordfish dishes presented there. It is available in other parts of the world and yet our swordfish industry has been eliminated entirely. I ask the minister whether there is not room for further research in this area so that we will be absolutely certain concerning the levels of mercury in swordfish.

There may be other areas also in which we can clarify our thinking on this matter through good, solid, funded research. We want to be sure that this particular fish, as has been ruled, is a fish unfit for human Canadian consumption, let me put it that way, because the people of other nations do eat it. With these remarks and these