

So, there it is, they want to modify the weather. The concept is taken for granted. In fact, private enterprise and scientists employed by Mr. Bernard Power, owner of the Montreal firm Weather Engineering, have been doing research and development for a long time designed to produce rain or snow. I would not be surprised if the heavy precipitation experienced in areas such as Montreal, Quebec and even Hull-Ottawa last winter was the results of such physical or chemical experiments.

Clause 2 (b) of the bill states:

"Weather modification activity" includes any action designed or intended to produce, by physical or chemical means, changes in the composition or dynamics of the atmosphere for the purpose of increasing, decreasing or suppressing hail or lightning, or dissipating fog or cloud.

There now, Senator Paul Martin has become a socialist: We know how this government has found means of imposing direct taxation on private income, indirect taxes in order to redistribute wealth; it takes money from some individuals to give it to others. I think that is precisely the role of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) to redistribute wealth. Now, rain is to be redistributed, precipitations are to be redistributed; nature is going to be socialized.

I do not mean that I am against scientific research, but this research should not be conducted at the expense of people, as it was noted during the years 1958 to 1965. In 1964, the Prime Minister of Canada was quite surprised to learn that tests could be conducted on cloud seeding. Either the minister was ill-informed or did not want to give explanations or information about it because some time later, I put questions on the order paper to throw some light on the subject.

According to the answers I was given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport in 1966, the federal government sponsored experiments on the seeding of clouds from 1959 to 1963. In 1964, the Prime Minister knew nothing about it or pretended not to know anything.

The Progressive Conservative government sponsored such experiments from 1959 to 1963. During those five years, such experiments cost some \$607,000,099.23 the Canadian taxpayer. What purposes did they serve? They increased rainfall by 15 to 20 per cent in some areas of Quebec, mainly Abitibi and Lake St. John, and in the Timiskaming riding in Ontario.

Not only was the federal government making and sponsoring such experiments, but so was the government of the province of Quebec at the same time. Owing to losses caused by such rainfalls, the UCC got in touch with and made representations to the government of the province of Quebec, particularly to the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. René Lévesque. According to that organization, in 1964 losses to farmers in the Abitibi constituency alone exceeded \$1 million.

In 1964, it rained in Abitibi for 69 consecutive days. It was not a very heavy rain, but when rain falls every day needless to say that the soil gets soggy and there comes a time even a light rainfall will have harmful effects.

Weather Modification Identification Act

• (5:10 p.m.)

On May 14, 1965, Mr. René Lévesque, another one who wanted to "socialize" the weather, and who is today the leader of the Parti Québécois, turned down requests from the residents of the Lake St. John area. He had received, at that time, a petition signed by 60,000 women and requesting that these experiments be ended. Mr. Lévesque answered: No, there is no question of stopping the cloud seeding.

In June 1965, Mr. Lévesque was forced to change his decision, and he "ordered" rain to stop falling in the Lac Saint-Jean area. This minister could control elements by allowing or asking firms such as Weather Engineering to practice cloud seeding, so as to bring about precipitation. So, Mr. René Lévesque ordered rain to stop falling, so that, during the summer of 1965, in the Lake St. John and Abitibi regions, the people might enjoy 90 days of sunshine.

Mr. Speaker, if governments dare meddle with the weather,—science has advanced enough today to achieve some success—and if they do it at the expense of populations, we do not agree. That is why we made a great fuss at the time and brought pressure to bear in order to have those tests stopped.

Those who want to make those tests should go where there are no people to harm. I have here a letter addressed to my colleague from Kamouraska (Mr. Dionne) and signed by Mr. J. P. Lalonde, secretary of the Air Transport Committee, which refers to a request of the Royalair Company Limited.

The company was asking for a licence of what was then called "air control operations". Those people did not want to talk about rainmaking operations to avoid alarming the population.

In his letter, Mr. Lalonde includes the ruling of the Air Transport Committee explaining cloud seeding in detail. A solution of silver iodide is used, or else "Weathercord" bombs, invented by Weather Engineering, are dropped from an aircraft into the clouds to be seeded. Part of the ruling reads as follows:

The seeding services are ensured by the applicant...

...Royalair Ltd...

...jointly with the Montreal company known as Weather Engineering Services Limited, hereinafter called Weather Engineering. The object of cloud seeding operations is to increase rain—or snow-falls.

That is the purpose of the operation. That is why I am wondering whether, this last winter, there may not have been cloud seeding operations which increased considerably the snow-fall in several areas. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prevent Bill S-11 from being referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry for detailed consideration, but I simply wish to say why it is necessary to pay special attention to a matter of which many are not aware yet, and which is very important. The bill simply requires that companies wishing to make such experiments must obtain a permit, a licence, and in the explanatory note of the bill introduced by the hon.