

assuming that the other House will not take very long to deal with it.

The bill is important to us in Canada because of the urgency of protecting the wholesome sea which is at our gates, if I may use the words which are carved over the entrance to this building. It is also important to us because of our international obligations.

It is not my intention to speak for more than a moment or two at this third reading stage. The bill received a good going over at second reading and in the standing committee, and I join the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark) in welcoming the improvements which were made in the standing committee, whatever the parentage of those improvements might be.

We note that the minister, instead of being just some undisclosed person, is to be the Minister of the Environment. We note, also, that a number of definitions have been sharpened. We welcome the fact that in the case of one very serious breach of this law the potential penalty has been increased substantially. I am aware of the weaknesses and shortcomings which have been referred to by the previous speaker and it is our hope that in the not too distant future these shortcomings will be corrected.

Mankind is pioneering in the whole area of trying to do something about our environment. Perhaps prehistoric man tried in his way, but he did not face the problems and critical situations which confront us today. It is, therefore, good that we are getting started with legislation which will at least enable governments to do something about protecting the various elements of our environment. Accordingly, we welcome this legislation and we call on the minister and the government to use it to the full to protect our oceans.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

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BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACTS, 1867 TO 1965

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SENATE REPRESENTATION FOR YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-3, to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council) moved:

Motion No. 1.

That Bill C-3, an act to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965, be amended by striking out clause 3 thereof and substituting the following therefor:

"3. This Act may be cited as the British North America Act, (No. 2) 1975, and shall be included among the Acts that may be cited as the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1975."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that we call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Senate Representation

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 12.56 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion was put before lunch. Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Motion No. 1 (Mr. Sharp) agreed to.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That motion corrected a typographical error.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House will now proceed to the consideration of motion No. 2 standing in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp).

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it seems to me that as the change proposed by motion No. 2 does not involve the spending of money, any member of the House can second the motion. I may argue the opposite on another stage that may come in a moment.

Mr. Woolliams: We do not need a minister to second the motion. The House can agree on a seconder by unanimous consent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member's proposal?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Marceau, moves:

That Bill C-3, an act to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965, be amended by striking out the long title thereof and substituting the following therefor:

An Act to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1975.

Motion No. 2 (Mr. Sharp) agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Chrétien, moves that Bill C-3, to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, be concurred in.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Should the motion not read as it has been amended, "to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1975?"

Mr. Woolliams: What a great observation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I believe the amendment is necessary.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. This material, of course, was prepared in advance without prejudging what