

*Government Orders*

ment officials from federal territorial and provincial levels, various research organizations or granting councils, or many interested Canadians, we found that they wanted a Canadian polar research commission in place as quickly as possible. It will do us all well to act on this piece of legislation as quickly as we can without being careless but move expeditiously. I am certain we can once we have begun this stage of the bill.

The great diversity and widespread dispersion of those engaged in research in and about Canada's polar regions has slowed and, in some respects, handicapped the development of a strong and effective Canadian polar research community. The research that takes place is rather disorganized and sporadic, and I must say that the worlds of polar knowledge and northern public policy are uncomfortably distant from one another. There is a desperate need for co-ordination. We are hopeful that the commission will provide that necessary infrastructure to co-ordinate these efforts.

• (1300)

It is important that the commission not undertake initiatives that duplicate the responsibilities or the efforts of others. It ought not to take over activities where the work can be done by others, perhaps more effectively or more efficiently. Instead, it should build upon, complement and support the work of the many diverse existing Canadian institutions, programs and organizations that are dedicated to the development of polar knowledge.

This is something that not only the commission ought to guard against, but should ensure that it not simply duplicate work, and I must say the excellent work, that is being done currently in our country.

We should recommend in the strongest terms possible that the Canadian Polar Research Commission must be concerned with the full range of knowledge in and about the polar regions and not be limited to the contemporary and restricted meaning of the word "science", or even to define formally notions of research as might be ex-

pressed in universities or industrial research and development ventures.

I am thinking of heritage and cultural issues. The indigenous knowledge of northern aboriginal people, the large and small scale technological developments appropriate to northern development and the whole range of the humanities and social sciences together form important components of polar knowledge. The commission must address the development of these facets of polar knowledge with the same enthusiasm it demonstrates for the development of polar knowledge in the natural and applied sciences.

I believe it will be reflected in the committee hearings that too often when we think of polar research or northern research, we think in terms of the pure sciences. An appeal will go out to broaden the scope of the work of the commission as much as possible.

When the report entitled *The Shield of Achilles* was being developed, the views expressed by those sought out for their views indicated an appreciation and a recognition for the fact that we have a broad sweep of the terms "research" and "science".

It is also important that while we call the commission an Arctic commission we also recognize that the definition of the word "north" means a variety of things to many people. Depending on the discipline or perhaps the individual, the definition of what constitutes the northern part of Canada will vary from person to person or from institute to institute or from source to source.

I believe the mandate of the Canadian Polar Research Commission should reflect the broadest sense of the word. I agree that while no clear line of demarcation presently exists between the north and the rest of Canada, we all would recognize the nordicity of our country developed by Professor Hamelin, who I think is from the University of Quebec at Laval, which offers what is probably the best guide but which is nonetheless the real sense that most Canadians have of what is the north and what is not.

In order to give guidance to the work of the commission, our definition of the north would certainly include research in and about Yukon, the Northwest Territories,