

*Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*

you, Sir, can we ignore the rights of these people so that a more affluent society should benefit? The answer of course is no. But they can be protected only by a clear declaration of Canadian sovereignty.

In the view of the Official Opposition, northern development must remain in Canadian hands. While a good many people are today greedily eyeing Canadian resources, we do not for one minute intend to be a party to any give-away of these resources without a true inventory of Canadian needs for the future. There are many who say that the north is Canada's future life blood. Therefore, it is for Canada to discover and develop the north. If there are vast resources of oil, as exploration indicates, it is for Canada to regulate the growth of its development. Without Canadian sovereignty being asserted we will have every Tom, Dick, and Harry eager to stake a claim to the north and to engage in unregulated off-shore drilling in Canadian waters. I submit Canada alone must exercise pollution control over the Canadian Arctic. It cannot be left to the United Nations; it cannot be left to shipowners; it cannot be left to oil companies or any other body. It is, I submit, Canada's responsibility alone.

Already Canada has been exposed to needless danger by a government that, at the least, has been extremely haphazard in its approach to the pollution menace. It was the Official Opposition that pointed out to the government that the *Manhattan*, on its first voyage, carried twice as much oil for fueling purposes as that carried as cargo by the ill-fated *Arrow* which broke up in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia, earlier this year. Those of us who live in that province, and certainly many who live outside it, are well aware of the tremendous damage that was done to the fisheries and the entire ecology of the area by that mishap. Scientists have been warning us of the dangers of pollution, pollution of the land, of the air and of our water. Doubts have been raised as to the very future of mankind unless we show some respect for nature and the environment in which we have been given the privilege of life.

The risk of a *Torrey Canyon* disaster hangs over all of our heads. The best insurance policy in the world would not and could not possibly compensate for the damage to our environment if a disaster of the *Torrey Canyon* magnitude happened in the north. A disaster of that proportion would upset the delicate balance of nature in the Arctic and

[Mr. Crouse.]

might lead to a complete ecological breakdown. It could reach out to every man, woman and child on this earth. These are some of the threats posed by new scientific and technological advances. However, I believe if a technological society is to continue, technology itself must be put to work to clean up its messes. On the land and in the water, a Canadian presence has been established in the Arctic by Canadian explorers, Canadian police, Canadian courts and Canadian commerce.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Those who object to Canadian sovereignty of the Arctic waters argue that the Northwest passage should be regarded as an international waterway because it connects two sections of the high seas. However, international law has established that a passage between high seas is international only if it has been used, frequently and without serious challenge, by international shipping. This is not the case with the Northwest passage.

Sovereign control of the Arctic does not imply interference with innocent and peaceful passage throughout the waters of the north. But it is for Canada to determine and ultimately decide what constitutes innocent passage, and Canada must retain the right to make and enforce regulations which protect our national interests. In my view, a vote against Canadian claims of sovereignty is a vote against Canada, its people and against humanity itself.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, in moving third reading of this bill, I do not have much to add except to thank hon. members who, on second reading, voted unanimously for this bill to set up a hundred-mile area for the control of pollution in the Arctic.

That unanimous gesture on the part of the House of Commons has done much to help Canada on the international level, towards the humanitarian purpose proposed by this bill. Because of the special problems in the North and also for the benefit of the native peoples of the North, it was imperative for our country to act immediately instead of waiting for a catastrophe, for ships have always started navigating in that area and the North will soon be open to shipping.

During a trip to Washington where I discussed problems pertaining to the North and