

Why are we concerned about the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and particularly this minister, when it comes to the environment? Let us look at the record of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and its track record with the environment.

The Minister of the Environment should read some of the reports produced by his own department. A report prepared in April of last year documents the concerns senior departmental officials have about offshore exploration and the problems they have in relation to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Perhaps the most condemning comment is found on page 13 of the report which reads: "The lack of environmental consciousness exhibited by EMR is a concern." I regard this as a tough statement for public servants to make. This is a comment from a government official, not a member of the opposition. It is clear that EMR is a proponent department. A proponent department like EMR is by mandate and definition primarily, if not totally, concerned with getting oil and gas out of the ground and from under the water. Mr. Speaker, that is expected of them. But there is a need for adequate checks and balances, and these are not present in Bill C-48. I say and the NDP says that the proper check on EMR's mad dash for oil and gas should rest with the Department of the Environment.

No moves have been made to give formal protective status to the 150 or more identified and internationally recognized ecological sites north of 60. There are still only six federal wildlife biologists north of 60. There have been no settlements of claim with Canada's first Canadians north of 60—to protect and enhance their culture and traditional interaction with wildlife and the environment.

Bill C-48 is, I am sure, epic poetry—music to the cash register ears for which it is written, but Bill C-48 is an obituary to many cultures and species.

The report I referred to earlier goes on as follows: "The Department of the Environment should act as spokesman in respect of environment, identifying to and for the government, environmental concerns." We know Mr. Speaker, that the proposed national resources management administration which I understand will be announced next week by the government, will include representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Department of the Environment and others, but we also know who pushes whom around in this government and in other governments. I predict, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will gather a lot of dust in this arrangement. I challenge the government to publish the minutes of the meetings of this council. That way, we will see whose interests are being protected and whose interests are being raised.

In fact, on June 18, 1981 in committee, the minister said he would release the terms of reference of the council. Because of the Liberal-Tory deal to close debate in committee, however, we do not have those guidelines. I would ask the minister to table those terms of reference in the House during this debate.

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Mr. Speaker, the minister's proposed council is not laid out in the legislation and I would like to raise a few points about why it should be if it is relevant to the amendments before us.

One of the criticisms of the federal government's environmental assessment procedure is that it is not enshrined in legislation. I have expressed my concerns about this matter, and I would certainly want improvements in the assessment process before it is legislated. I should like to refer to a number of reports that show why the lack of a legislative mandate to protect the environment in Bill C-48 is such a bad move by the government.

A report done in December 1978 by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources says that there has been "slow acceptance at senior levels of the long-term need to make environmental evaluation a basic element in both the economic analysis and planning processes." In layman's language that means that senior people in the department are not particularly concerned about the environment. The report refers to the environmental assessment and review process as it relates to the department.

The report also says there are problems in EMR in implementing the necessary processes. This point was pursued by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee. In a letter to members of the committee studying Bill C-48, it expressed serious concerns about the lack of staff in EMR to carry out minimal environmental research.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development—the silent partner—is no better. Despite the fact that EARP was established by cabinet in December, 1973, by December 1980 the department had still not established procedures on environmental screening—after over eight years. A recent article in the Ottawa *Citizen* makes reference to pressure being exerted on the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to grant exploratory rights before legislation recognizing native rights is passed by Parliament. The government's hypocrisy is shown by its intention to proceed with the Norman Wells pipeline despite the completely unchallenged work of Mr. Justice Thomas Berger.

Mr. Kelly: What does he say?

Mr. Fulton: What is the government afraid of? I hear a member opposite yapping, so we will see if he has something to say.

Mr. Kelly: What is his reaction?

Mr. Fulton: They have been running around the country saying that Bill C-48 is "neutral" on land claims, but when pressed to come up with a legal opinion we see what a charade the government parades as the truth.

At this point I want to remind the noisy member opposite that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development agreed on June 1 to provide a legal opinion on whether Bill C-48 affects land claims negotiations. He promised that when native people were present at committee. To date we have not seen that opinion. In fact, the minister has written to me