

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill

would only make a statement that all foreign troops should go home but we know they would not go home until some greater power sent them.

There is only one thing that will bring us any kind of lasting peace in the world, Mr. Speaker. This will be when each nation is willing to give up some of its sovereignty to a well co-ordinated League of Nations, a United Nations, with a peacekeeping force capable of maintaining law and order. International affairs are not so much different from human affairs. A policeman on duty on Saturday night will not be able to maintain law and order if he is not given the authority. An International Court of Justice decision on Canadian sovereign rights in the Arctic would be without force if nations like the United States and the Soviet Union chose to ignore it.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the text of this note from the United States. I understand that the President of the United States has spoken to our Prime Minister by telephone and I hope they agreed to endeavour to solve this problem in good faith. I hope it will not come to any sort of a show of strength. Sending our troops into the Arctic is not going to achieve a great deal at this stage—indeed it amounts almost to comic opera.

The government should come out with a clear statement that for the last 50 years Canada has laid claim to the whole archipelago of the north, maintaining responsibility for the native population and the ecology of the land and sea. It would not be a sign of weakness if we put our emphasis on the council table, as long as we have a plan for full co-operation in the development of our western way of life as well as the protection from pollution of the whole of the Arctic. We are already respected as world citizens and as we develop we should put emphasis in the right places.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Would the hon. member permit a question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Bigg: Yes, indeed.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I should like to ask the hon. member, as he has made a number of references to the bargaining table and to negotiations, if he would mind telling us who is going to be on the other side of this bargaining table and what it is we have to negotiate?

Mr. Bigg: Mr. Speaker, I think every nation in the world has an interest in the pollution

[Mr. Bigg.]

of the seas. Perhaps there is an argument, as mentioned in this text, in favour of sharing sovereignty so that the international seaways of the world could be open for commerce and for peaceful purposes. I should like to think that people who are asking for that right would be willing to tax themselves and to co-operate with us in every way possible to avoid marine disasters in the north. If they want to share our sovereignty, they should be willing to share the cost.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Incidentally, the Northwest Passage route was pioneered by the same mounted police who maintained law and order in that part of the country and made friends with the people who lived there. If it had not been for the pioneering work of ships like the *St. Roche*, and Sergeant Larsen of the mounted police, perhaps the *Manhattan* might not have gone as far as she did. We did that at our own expense. Now, it is patently ridiculous for anyone to say that we have no vested interest in the Arctic. Whether or not our interest is exclusive is a matter for the bargaining table. I think the mere fact that Canada is willing to sit at the bargaining table and seek the advice and co-operation of others, and the fact that we have faith that other nations of the world are willing to do something in this area with us, in itself is an exercise of our sovereignty. On the other hand, the mere shaking of the sword at the present time would probably be ridiculous and not bring us any closer to answering the question of how we are to assert the sovereignty of our country.

Mr. C. Terrence Murphy (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I enter this debate to point out one or two things that I think are most important. From the newspapers and from information we have obtained from the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) we have learned that our good neighbour to the south is taking some exception to the provisions of this bill. I think it is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that as long ago as 1954 nations got together in an attempt to arrive at some agreement which would prevent pollution of the high seas. An agreement was reached in 1954 by some 22 nations. That agreement simply set out that the countries that were party to it, the 22 nations, would have the right to impose fines on shipowners of the other signatory nations when the ships involved discharged oil within 50 miles of the shoreline of any participating nation. That