

Northern Inland Waters Bill

order to indicate the reason for the amendment.

Clause 10 provides for the issuing of licences to a licensee who must satisfy the appropriate board of certain facts. Nowhere is it set out that the licensee must satisfy the board that he does not intend to export waters from this country. Nowhere in the bill is it suggested that export of water from this country is prohibited. I suggest that is a very serious omission.

Mr. Chrétien: May I have permission to ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Baldwin: I will be delighted.

Mr. Chrétien: Is the hon. member not aware that there is in Canada some legislation that prohibits the export of any kind of resource without the permission of the government?

Mr. Baldwin: But this is legislation that the government is bringing in now, with full knowledge of that other legislation. It may well be that the government wants to involve itself in law suits at a future stage but if the government is so satisfied that this legislation is subject to the legislation to which the minister has referred, then why is this provision not included in the bill so that the position is made absolutely clear? If the situation is clear, then let the minister accept the amendment that I propose to offer to the House later on. If the government is of the opinion that the views put forward by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) are the same views as those held by the government, then let the minister consider the amendment that I will propose.

We would be derelict in our duty if we were to allow the bill to pass without taking into account this situation, particularly bearing in mind what we know to be the fact in the United States, bearing in mind that there is an obvious division of opinion among the members of the government, and also bearing in mind that not so many years ago what was heralded as a great proposal, one given appropriate publicity, was put forward to gather together the waters of northern Canada that are referred to in this bill in a great public work, and to divert those waters through canals and rivers to the south-western United States. This proposal has not been abandoned.

I referred to the fact that clause 10 contains no prohibition whatever on the right to export water. I realize that this is not the

[Mr. Baldwin.]

time to become involved with the minister and the government in an argument on the interpretation of statutes; but I do suggest that this bill, standing as it does, might well be held to supersede the other legislation to which the minister refers. As I say, if that is not the case, then let the minister think very carefully about the defect that appears in the bill and correct it.

Clause 15 provides for public hearings and for procedures for those applicants who want to use the waters of the north. One provision makes it possible for an applicant to ask for a hearing. This hearing is to be decided by this government dominated and government appointed board, without any public notice at all, which I suggest is creating a very dangerous situation. It may well be that the government's intentions are good; I do not know. I hope they are. But what government is going to succeed this one? What Prime Minister or minister of northern affairs will succeed the present incumbents? It is, therefore, our duty to make sure that any loopholes are closed, and in this regard I hope that the minister will consider it his duty to accept our suggestions.

At the present time I suggest that the House is free to lay down the principle that there should be no export of waters from this country. We are not able to speak for generations to come; neither are we able to speak for future Parliaments. If the amendment that I am going to propose is accepted, it will mean that the government and future ministers will not be allowed, as they are under the provisions of this bill, which I suggest may well supersede any previous legislation, to provide for the kind of export that we worry about.

The minister may not worry about it, but I live in northern Canada and have many friends who live in the territories, and they are worried and concerned about a government that pays only lip service—as this bill proves—to the question of providing democratic representation for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chrétien: What did you do when you were in power?

Mr. Baldwin: The minister asks what we did when we came to power. We built roads to the north. We built railroads to the north and extended the frontier. We made the north a real name, and did so in face of the most stubborn and bitter resistance from the then Liberal opposition, who referred to it as a program of building roads from igloo to igloo.