

on this bill to say that the bill certainly goes in the right direction, but that it does not go far enough.

I want to support the recommendations of the Council of Yukon Indians. I want to draw particular attention to the third recommendation of the Council of Yukon Indians, that is, legislation must take into full consideration the recent Supreme Court decision of Sparrow in British Columbia.

That court decision, it seems to me, will have ramifications all across the country, as has been pointed out by the First Nations. I just want to point out to the government the situation that is occurring in my own riding now, not with regard to placer mining but with regard to fishing which I think bears on this point.

The government has restricted food fishing for trout in the Lake Melville area to three weeks, whereas normally people in that area, most of whom are members of the Labrador Métis Association, would be able to fish for food throughout the season, as I think is their historic right.

Second, a recent government regulation has restricted the salmon quota on the coast of Labrador and has reduced that quota by 43 per cent. This is at a time, I might say, when there was a crisis in the cod fishery and at a time when there was an ice blockade on that coast. It seems to me that that court decision has implications for this situation as well.

I draw to the attention of the government that while it is moving in the right direction it must, as the Council of Yukon Indians point out, take into consideration in all future legislation and in regulations the decision of the Supreme Court with regard to Sparrow.

Aboriginal people do have rights in this country, not simply to the protection of their lands during and after the land claims process, but in respect to their food fishery as well.

It seems to me the government should revise those regulations that it has brought in this year. It should be cognizant of the Sparrow decision in all future legislation and regulations that it brings in with regard to native people in this country.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

### *Government Orders*

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

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## CANADIAN POLAR COMMISSION ACT

### MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development)** moved that Bill C-72, an act to establish the Canadian Polar Commission and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)):** Madam Speaker, I realize I have just a couple of minutes before we move on to other orders of the House. I am looking forward after Question Period to providing the House with the government's position on Bill C-72.

I must say that I just returned last night from Iqaluit where I spent the last couple of days. For the first time as a Canadian I had the opportunity to appreciate truly the north. I feel that many Canadians are missing a very important part of their heritage by not taking the opportunity to visit the northern parts of our country.

My hon. colleague across the floor was there with us yesterday as we met and listened to Innu people and northerners speak about their concerns about the Arctic, about the beautiful opportunities that we have there, as well as about the problems that are there as far as the environment is concerned and the possible pollution that is approaching the Arctic.

Certainly, there have been steps taken by this government to work on the Finnish initiative and other initiatives to protect the environment of the north.

As we enter into debate on Bill C-72, which is a bill to establish the Canadian Polar Commission, we see that this is a step which we feel will further enhance the opportunities of the people in the north, and also put us in a position to act more positively internationally on the scene. The Arctic is a very important part of our country,