

*Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill*

ment from the Eskimo people that they would like to secede. If you took a proper empirical approach to the matter and you whine about people having a right to earn their living on their own land, and about the self-expression of peoples, which are some of the prime theories behind the formation of the United Nations organization, then I wonder what the Eskimo people would say if all the emphasis were placed on the land masses and it was stated that sovereignty over the waters that lie between the islands was not a meaningful thing?

Up until the recent development of oil resources in the north country, the Eskimo people relied entirely on the marine and animal life which lived on the ice and in the water between the islands. These waters between the islands were of vital importance to the Eskimo way of life. Who cared about these Eskimo people? The Canadian people cared. The Canadian taxpayers sent mounted police up there to occupy each and every one of the major islands under our flag. We gave those people our assistance through law and order, through medical attention, and in every other way in which we could co-operate with them. We gave them the security which they occasionally did not have among themselves. We maintained decent order in the north. Apparently, we gave them that which they appreciate because never, as far as I know, have they indicated that they wanted to leave the Dominion of Canada.

Unless the Americans are willing to sit down with us, as we are willing to sit down with them, and discuss this matter openly, friendly and consistently, in terms of the free determination of the rights of peoples—in this case the Eskimos—I think it would be an exercise in futility. But I am not cynical about it. The Americans have stated their position. They may sound inflexible, but I think we are in a good bargaining position. Because of their power and wealth, the Americans find themselves a very lonely nation. But they are not always lonely because they are wrong. They may be lonely because they are the big brother, because they are powerful, because they are rich, because no doubt sometimes they are greedy, and because they are arrogant. I think loneliness is the worst thing that can be inflicted on any member of the human race.

Collectively and individually Americans want to be understood and admired, instead of being the target of an awful lot of rotten propaganda coming from every corner

of the world, with 90 per cent of which I do not agree. Nobody loves them except us. Little Canada is the only real friend they have in international affairs. One of the reasons is that, by and large, we have been treated pretty well by them. By and large, we are happy to have their money here to develop our almost unlimited resources. But I do not think this means that we have to be soft or subservient. On the contrary, I think it is time that our government stated in explicit terms to the Americans just what our hopes are and the area over which we have jurisdiction. I do not think we should get bogged down in semantics. The Canadian archipelago islands of the north are an economic unit. The ice between the islands is essential to the native people who have the greatest interest and right to sovereignty over those islands.

• (2:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Nielsen:** Judge Morrow decided that.

**Mr. Bigg:** Yes, the courts decide things but from time to time their decisions are reversed. I am appealing on the principle of humanity. When this note recommends that we go to the international courts I presume the recommendation is based on principle since there is very little international law on the subject. In so far as the power group I mentioned earlier is concerned, we should not let ourselves become a pawn in this big power game.

I find it strange, Mr. Speaker, that the people who shouted the loudest about these principles of peacekeeping, understanding and world co-operation rather than shaking an empty fist in mock fury should be the first ones to delay a plan for consultation. One of the most important things is to go to the bargaining table with a clear idea of your requirements. In order to achieve our ends our best brains should be selected for the negotiations, particularly with the United States, because that country is in a position to help us maintain that sovereignty. At the present time we are militarily incapable of enforcing sovereignty.

We know only too well that the moral support of the world, if we were to rely on that, breaks down in the face of military strength. In this regard I only have to mention the fate of some of the small nations. If Hungary wanted to come from behind the iron curtain, to whom would she appeal? If Cambodia wanted the foreign troops marching through her country to go home, to whom would she appeal? The International Court of Justice