

*Yukon Minerals Act*

regulations which are still being held up in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development despite the fact that increasing oil, gas and mineral exploration has been going on for years in the territories.

This bill should contain a list of pollution regulations which should be rigidly enforced by the department. High national standards should be included in the regulations. Our Canadian north is a relatively new area so far as major development is concerned. It should be protected at all costs from the disgraceful environmental pollution which has taken place in other parts of the country due to lack of enforcement of adequate regulations. Administration in this area would be relatively simple because of the limited number of operations. New mining operations should, before production is commenced, prove that their standards are adequate and that they have met fully what I hope will be a set of strict regulations laid down by the department.

Another example of government neglect is the lack of ecological studies done in our north. Such studies are absolutely essential to the drawing up of meaningful regulations but, as usual, the federal government has blundered along with little attention being paid to this very important aspect of environmental control. The result has been unregulated economic activity in all sections of the territories, and already immense and lasting damage has been done to the ecology of that area.

Perhaps one of the major blunders of the federal government and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been in the complete indifference and lack of concern over the building of the Bennett Dam on the Peace River. Officials were too shortsighted and indifferent to appreciate the damage which could be caused to the lower reaches and in fact the whole of the Mackenzie River and the Mackenzie delta. The enormity of the damage already done is just beginning to be realized by the parties concerned. Water levels have been dropping, the nesting of wild fowl, fish runs, muskrat life and the native population in the area have been hurt. Despite the subjective lesson in the need for ecological surveys, we find that this government has again ignored the need for such surveys in the over-all picture. Under the northern Canada power commission bill powers are given to the commission in respect of hydro development without the stipulation that adequate surveys must be made to ensure that the ecology of the area is fully protected.

There has been a great deal of discussion in the last few days in the newspapers, over the air and in this House concerning the building of a pipeline down the Mackenzie River valley to bring oil from Alaska and oil and gas from the northern section of Canada. Again this is just part of the need for ecological regulations in respect of all legislation, including that concerning minerals and processing in the Yukon and in other parts of the Canadian north.

Pollution control involves not merely prevention of destruction of the environment but concern for conserva-

[Mr. Harding.]

tion and a judicious use of our resources. Government policy in the north shows little concern for the conservation of our non-renewable resources. It is absolutely essential that governments realize that population control, resource conservation and pollution control all play a part in the over-all plan of managing our environment. Unless we realize this at a very early date and take the necessary steps to set up a program to integrate these various features, there will be little chance of adequately solving the grave pollution problems which face us in the north. I say, Mr. Speaker, that of all places in Canada the northern area is where these three major and important factors should be included in all our environmental planning.

The demand for mineral resources is best illustrated by the increasing rate of extraction and the dwindling global supply of high-grade metallic ores. If we use available data from the United States, it would appear that the United States will need about 700 per cent more aluminum, 225 per cent more copper, 50 per cent more iron and 40 per cent more lead by the year 2000 than they now consume. At present the United States imports most of its manganese, chromium, cobalt, tin and bauxite, having used up much of its own high-grade supplies. Available mineral deposits are not inexhaustible, even in our Canadian north, and I feel that Canadian planning and conservation measures are needed.

Here is one view of mineral resources which is most interesting. If the standard of living represented by Canada's per capita gross national product were extended to all the five billion to seven billion people of the world, the human race in the year 2000 would need annually 1,300 per cent more aluminum, 900 per cent more copper, 700 per cent more iron and 1,100 per cent more lead than it now consumes. Before we could possibly reach this level of consumption the present estimated global supply of readily recoverable ores would be exhausted. The magnitude of these figures, however, is not limited in significance to the metal supply alone because as we get into bodies of ore which are less concentrated than those currently being mined in the north we will need a great increase in the energy required to extract such vast quantities of metal from these lower grade bodies of ore. In addition to the raw needs for material and energy, this rate of consumption would be accompanied by pollution and waste-disposal problems of similar magnitude.

If we are to provide for future generations we will have to learn to recycle our mineral supplies rather than depend entirely on the development of new mines. That is why it is essential that adequate and proper planning for our natural mineral resources should take place in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. This is one reason we should not be too anxious to turn over to foreign speculators some of the richest ore bodies to be found anywhere in the world. This is another reason we should insist on far more of our natural resources and far more of our mineral resources being processed and fabricated in our own country. The rape of natural resources is going on in many countries of the world at an