

*Weather Modification Identification Act***GOVERNMENT ORDERS****NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT
AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DEFINITIONS, INSPECTION,
OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENT**

On the order:

June 9, 1971—Report state of Bill S-13, An Act to amend the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry—the Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to the order of business for today.

Mr. Trudeau: That is finished.

Mr. Baldwin: The Prime Minister, as usual, is far behind. We are dealing with today; he is dealing with yesterday. I was wondering if the government would be prepared to reverse the order and agree to proceed with the weather modification bill, which we understood would be the first item of business. That would clear the air for the rest of the afternoon.

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I had been asked previously to vary the order to suit another opposition party. I will now vary it back to suit them both, but in this case I won't be suiting the minister behind me because he wants to proceed with the other item. However, on this occasion the opposition rules, and we will call the weather modification bill.

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**WEATHER MODIFICATION IDENTIFICATION ACT
PROVISION FOR OBTAINING OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING ACTIVITIES**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill S-11, to provide for the obtaining of information respecting weather modification activities, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment) moved:

That Bill S-11, An Act to provide for the obtaining of information respecting weather modification activities, be amended by deleting clause 5 and substituting the following:

"5. Any information obtained by the Administrator or his authorized representative pursuant to this Act may be made public or made available on request to any member of the public".

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Corbin: Mr. Speaker, Bill S-11 was first introduced in the Senate on Tuesday, February 9. It received second reading on March 4, following some brief examination by the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare. On March 18 it received third reading, and was subsequently turned over for our consideration in the House of Commons on March 25.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Following a short debate in the House, the weather modification information bill was studied in detail by the Fisheries and Forestry Committee. A few amendments, most of which by the way, were quite acceptable to the government, were introduced. However, one such amendment is in our view not desirable, and I will say why in the course of my brief remarks.

I should like to remind hon. members that the purpose and intent of the bill is to enable the gathering of information relative to any activity undertaken with the hope and the objective of modifying the weather. Scientists generally recognize that although such weather modification attempts are still in their experimental stage, the day will come when it will be possible not only to precipitate and direct the precipitation of rain clouds, to eliminate fog, and control hail precipitation or to direct it, and indeed by design or by accident for man eventually to exercise some degree of control on regional or global climatological patterns. But many of the theories have not gone beyond the experimental stage, with scientific proof lacking to back up many claims. This is perhaps one of the newest and one of the most interesting scientific developments in the last decade. However, we must remind ourselves that to play with the forces of nature on such a grandiose scale may produce undesirable and even catastrophic effects. I do not think this is the time and place to catalogue the various possibilities. I should, nevertheless, refer hon. members to a just recently published report of the Study of Man's Impact on Climate—SMIC for short—entitled "Inadvertent Climate Modification". This is published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology press.

• (3:10 p.m.)

The report is an excellent, up to date compendium of the most recent thinking, practices and theories with respect to weather modification. I think it would be very useful to have on the official record of this House, for the enlightenment of hon. members and the interested public sectors, the text of the statement endorsed by the Sixth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization held in April, 1971. The statement is a recapitulation of arguments used in the committee in defence of Bill S-11 and is a valuable piece of scientific information on the present state of knowledge and possible practical benefits in some fields of weather modification—in fact those fields which are of concern to Canadians at this stage of the game. I should like to quote from that statement, Mr. Speaker, the brief summaries of the current status of weather modification in several categories, as follows:

Stimulation of Precipitation: Of the many experiments conducted in this field, only a few have clearly demonstrated that seeding has increased the precipitation; in some cases there is even evidence of a decrease in the precipitation. However, there is some evidence that orographic precipitation can be modestly increased by seeding, particularly during the winter, over the mountain ranges of the western U.S.A. There is also some evidence that sub-tropical convective clouds, selected on the basis of numerical models, become taller and larger when they are heavily seeded so as to release latent heat. In view of the high correlation between the size of convective clouds and the rainfall from them, the seeded clouds presumably give more rain than if they had not been seeded. Confirmation, however, is required from further suitably designed experiments.

Dissipation of Fog: Supercooled fog and stratus can be dissipated by seeding them with ice nucleants or by means of cooling agents. This has been brought into operational use at several