

*Government Orders*

and any orders passed between February 13, 1990, and of course when these amendments take effect.

It is most important that this retroactivity take place, otherwise the existing Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the existing Yukon Placer Mining Act would take precedence over these lands which, for various reasons, ought to be removed in the best interest of the public. In most cases in Yukon we are dealing with Indian land claims.

Having said that, I want to get into some of the details of the Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the Yukon Placer Mining Act as they presently stand and some of the changes that we would be recommending. In the consideration of time, however, I will simply say that we will raise these in committee. I think that that precision and exactness would have a more appropriate place in committee discussion as opposed to the discussion of the principle of the bill that we are doing now at second reading.

Let me conclude by simply saying that we support the major thrust of this legislation. The legislation is timely. While the settlement in Yukon does not necessitate quite the consideration that we would normally have given this legislation, we feel that it is appropriate now to send it off to the appropriate legislative committee, bring forward the appropriate witnesses and move expeditiously to pass it through all stages and get it off to the Senate for ratification there before it is finalized. This will set the record straight in law on just what the opportunities are for the miners of Yukon and to ensure that the rights and interests of the general public are adequately protected.

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt):** Madam Speaker, I do not want to take more than a couple of minutes. I just want to make a comment on this particular bill.

Basically, it is a bill on land use. I know that land use across the provinces is considered to be a provincial responsibility, but that land use as far as the Northwest Territories and Yukon, to a certain extent, is concerned is still a federal responsibility. This points directly to the dangers of not having in place the kind of regulation and thus the lack of control that allows development of land to be made at the behest of the person who thinks they can make a few bucks on it rather than the common good of the people.

• (1050)

In many cases, particularly in Yukon since the finding of gold, the development and the mining of gold was considered to be much more important than anything else in the development of Yukon.

We have the same kind of situation right now in the rain forests of Brazil where large areas of the rain forests are being devastated so that some placer mining can be done. That is the type of thing that happens if you do not have in place the regulations and controls necessary to allow development of land for the good of all people.

I know this particular legislation is before us basically because of the concerns about the land claims of the aboriginal peoples of Yukon. That in itself is a major story, I suppose, and something that needs careful understanding in terms of aboriginal rights and their definition.

It does also deal specifically with the use of land. My point in getting up even for these few minutes is to put before the House and the people of Canada the fact that we in Canada must look much more closely at regulation. We must not think that deregulation of all industries in terms of all use of land is acceptable. We must recognize that we should have in place the kind of legislation which allows us to make sure that development occurs in such a way so that the rights and the best interests of all Canadians are recognized.

I say this particularly now because we are recognizing that over the last 50 years in Canada we have not put in place regulations which have protected the environment, the land and our standard of living, the standard of living that we think we should be able to have in Canada. We have not put the regulations in place and now find ourselves suffering and having to make changes which are much more costly than they would have been if we had put them in place in the first instance.

This piece of legislation, as I understand, will go to a legislative committee now. I hope that some of the concerns of the people of Yukon will be recognized and dealt with in committee.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** On questions or comments, the hon. member for Labrador.

**Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador):** Madam Speaker, I know time is short but I want to make a few comments