

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act

field who will determine whether or not this bill really means anything. All of the high sounding oratory that has been uttered in the House about it, and the high aspirations that have been expressed by the government for its ultimate success, all of the declarations that have been made in respect of the position taken by the United States, really mean nothing unless the people who are on the ground have, as I have put it, the tools to do the job. When a pollution prevention officer goes about his work in the field he is not only being trained for the immediate technical aspects of a particular job of inspection but he should have behind him an increasing body of knowledge which will keep him constantly appraised of the developments that are taking place in technology as well as the increasing scientific knowledge that is available to help him in understanding the purpose of his job.

It is for that reason I proposed that this clause be numbered 14 and that the following clauses be renumbered. It did seem to me that it was the most appropriate place to emphasize this point so far as the actual order of the bill was concerned. I think the text of the amendment is self-explanatory. I do not feel I need to expand on it ad nauseam. I would just like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by actually reading the text of my amendment which says:

The Governor in Council shall cause to be undertaken by such agencies as he deems appropriate continuing programs of research directed to furthering the objectives of this act.

This is an amendment which provides the flexibility which is required, and at the same time would constitute a specific direction by Parliament that such research work as we are doing from time to time be directed, in an appropriate proportion at least, to the furthering of the aims and objectives of Bill C-202, an act to prevent pollution of areas of the Arctic waters adjacent to the mainland and islands of the Canadian Arctic.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Steven Otto (York East): Mr. Speaker, with all respect to the amendment, I believe that in the preamble to the bill and in the bill itself, the powers and regulations granted to the Governor in Council will allow the government to provide research facilities if they do not already exist.

Mr. Barnett: There is no quarrel at all there.

[Mr. Barnett.]

Mr. Otto: There are powers in the bill to inspect ships, to set standards for the type of containers to be used and for the type of construction, etc. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the amendment is not too urgent.

I should like to speak partially on the amendment as related to the bill. In this respect, I really should be debating with the hon. member for Coast Chilcotin (Mr. St. Pierre) and not the minister, with all respect to the minister. It was the hon. member from Coast Chilcotin who, almost singlehandedly, drafted this bill. Back in February 1968, the minister and many others took part in a certain meeting where the member for Coast Chilcotin mentioned this great problem of the forthcoming visit of the *Manhattan*. At that time we did not know if this was a soft drink or a hard drink, in fact nobody paid particular attention to it. He brought it up again and again. With all respect to members in the committee, I have no doubt that it was he who kept plugging and promoting the report of the committee and, subsequently, the bill which is before us now. I always like to give credit to a back bencher who has been singularly successful in his endeavours. If the hon. member achieves nothing else in this House, he will have done a great service to Canada through the presentation of this bill.

I hope that the sovereignty of the Arctic is not a topic to which one cannot address oneself with some humility and perhaps some humour. Of course, we voted unanimously for the bill. This great subject of sovereignty has come to us as a revelation—

Mr. Benjamin: It has with the Liberals, not with us.

Mr. Otto: Surely, the hon. member is not suggesting that he is not in favour of the bill. He voted for it. In fact, the NDP is not really concerned about the sovereignty of Canada so much as plucking the feathers from the eagle south of the border at every opportunity. They can no longer twist the tail of the lion, so now it is the eagle. If it were not for the United States ships, the Russian ships or some others, they would have voted against the bill—

Mr. Benjamin: The Liberals just found out about sovereignty.

Mr. Otto: When the bill was discussed in the House the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) addressed himself to it. It was a defensive measure. Instead of saying "We are right in declaring sovereignty because we will and