

*Speech from the Throne*

them full play in the shaping of a proud Canadianism which reflects all the elements of our society. I believe that this government has shown determination and imagination in this.

• (1500)

While protecting these diversities, the government is helping Canadians to overcome economic obstacles and cultural barriers—barriers that tend to isolate Canadians from one another, from their land, from their history and from individual fulfilment.

In seeking to overcome these forces of isolation, we must protect our human environment and conserve our natural resources. We must remove the constraints, some of which are long standing, that weaken and hamper elements in Canadian society. We must pierce language barriers and nourish cultural aspirations deeply rooted in the past. We must provide a full range of opportunities for all Canadians. We must give meaning to their freedom of choice in their economic, social or cultural aspirations and efforts. There is a fundamental need, of which we are all becoming increasingly aware, to enrich the quality of life for all Canadians, to give it meaning and fulfilment. In a very real sense the need is to inject concern for humanity into a social environment largely dominated by materialism. This need has been clearly recognized by this government.

Look at what we have been doing in the last four years! The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act was unanimously passed by this House. The Northern Inland Waters Act protects the freshwater resources of the north. Land use regulations are now in effect throughout the north. Guidelines have been announced for the construction of northern pipelines. The Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act was amended to provide for more comprehensive control over oil and gas operations. Parliament has passed the Canadian Water Act setting national standards and controls. The Canadian Clean Air Act provides national standards for air.

*[Translation]*

However, Mr. Speaker, this only represents part of the accomplishments of the government. By creating the Department of the Environment we have opened the way to decisive action and co-ordination in that important area. This new group of governmental agencies puts us in a better position to solve current problems. They co-ordinate the undertakings of all departments in the field and work in close co-operation with the provinces, universities, industry, in short all those who are interested by this field.

Over one million chemical products are being used today. So we need to determine their hazardous or other characteristics. Pollution, whether it be created by industry or the masses of people living in urban areas, has raised new problems for the government. Canada now has a central agency to deal with those difficulties. No country can overcome pollution on its own. It is an undertaking with international dimensions. A first step has been made toward an international agreement on the control over the quality of water which will be part of a program to rejuvenate the Great Lakes between the United States and Canada.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

The next international conference on the Law of the Sea will help us further to make known to the world our concern to protect Canada at any cost against pollution whatever may be the source. Canada deserves to be protected. It is a country of great scenic beauty. Most enchanting sites have been preserved through our national parks.

In the last four years, Mr. Speaker, seven new parks have been added to those already in existence. For the first time we have national parks in Quebec—La Mauricie and Forillon. We also have a large national park in Ontario, Pukaskwa. We have Gros Morne park in Newfoundland, Kouchibouguac park in New Brunswick and Pacific Rim park in British Columbia. In Nova Scotia Kejimikujik park has now been opened.

*[English]*

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce the location of the three new parks that are being established north of the sixtieth parallel. The first of these parks is an immense 8,500 square miles in the Kluane area, in the southwest corner of Yukon Territory. Its outstanding features include Mount Logan, the highest peak in Canada; one of the world's largest non-polar icefields systems; outstanding glaciers and the St. Elias Mountains. The second is 1,840 square miles along the South Nahanni River, Canada's most spectacular wild river. In April, 1971, 870 square miles were withdrawn from exploitation. The new park more than doubles that area and includes Virginia Falls, twice as high as Niagara, three major canyons reaching 4,000 feet in height and a vast number of caves and sulphur hot springs. The third will be the first national park above the Arctic Circle. It is an 8,200 square mile area on the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island. The area is noted for its spectacular fjords and deeply carved mountains dominated by the massive Penny Icecap. Mountains reach 7,000 feet. The Pagnirtung Pass is 60 miles long and often a mile deep.

These three northern parks, Canada's first national parks north of the sixtieth parallel, will increase total national parks lands by more than 50 per cent—from some 31,300 square miles to 49,800 square miles. I know all of these areas very well. They are unique and fantastic. They will rank among the world's most spectacular national parks. Members of this House are invited to view models, photographs and maps of these three areas which are on exhibit today in the Railway Committee Room. I thought it was important to give hon. members an opportunity to appreciate visually what we are doing. Although we try to be eloquent, there is nothing to beat a visual appreciation of the highest mountains in Canada, the biggest fjords, and so on. I think hon. members will probably appreciate the opportunity of seeing that documentation.

The addition of these northern parks means that ten new parks have been created since 1968. Only two parks were opened in the preceding 30 years. There has never been an expansion comparable to that of the last four years. The ten most recent additions up to 1968 took 50 years to establish. We now have 28 national parks in a comprehensive network extending from sea to sea; for the first time outstanding natural areas in every province and both northern territories are represented in Canada's national parks system.