

but let the Prime Minister stand up on his two feet and say to all and sundry that Canada owns everything between the 60th Meridian and the 141st Meridian and up to the North Pole. Let him do that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nielsen: I commend the Secretary of State for External Affairs for doing just that yesterday in debate, but surely the Prime Minister should do that also.

Mr. Sharp: He said it too.

Mr. Nielsen: He did not; he said quite the contrary.

Mr. St. Pierre: Would the hon. member permit a question? He said he examined the sector theory as put forward by Senator Poirier in 1903? If he had, he would not be making the statement he has.

Mr. Nielsen: In answer to the hon. member, I would say that I have examined the theory and I still stand by what I said. Before that theory ever became a theory, Canada was asserting her sovereignty over the Arctic.

Mr. Dinsdale: That is only one claim.

Mr. St. Pierre: Would the hon. member permit another question? Is it correct that in the assertion of the sector theory Canada laid claim to all land which might be discovered within that sector, and similar action was taken by Tsarist Russia in 1917?

Mr. Nielsen: Absolutely, and well before that Canada was asserting that very claim made by Bernier which accounts for his log of 1908 and for the policy of the government of the day. My friend will recall the test of that theory that the United States made when they sent a warship into the Russian sector, the progress of which was impeded by the stationing of Russian warships across the passage, following which the U.S. warships turned around and did not proceed farther.

Mr. Hogarth: Would the hon. member permit another question? Would he explain to me, for my information, what was the exact theory put forward by the gentleman referred to in 1903?

Mr. Lundrigan: That's a stupid question.

Mr. Nielsen: I would dearly love to do that if the House would give me unanimous consent to continue for another 30 minutes.

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill

Mr. Lundrigan: The hon. member would not understand it anyway.

Mr. Nielsen: There is another point I would like to make. I heard the leader of the New Democratic Party say that there are three historical precedents for the action that the government is taking now and justifying it on that basis. As one hon. member opposite put it, we in Canada have a right to take the action that we are taking now in this Parliament as a matter of self-defence, on the basis that we had to combat pollution effectively. This brought to mind the U.S. action taken with respect to the missile emergency that occurred in Cuba, when Russia was supplying the material and the missiles to establish offensive bases in Cuba. The United States took unilateral action on the high seas to stop those ships, and theoretically if for no other reason, one must conclude that it was to prevent the polluting of Cuba with missiles. The fact is that they acted unilaterally, and if they can do so with respect to a situation like that, I suggest that Canada has a similar right. Whether we have the means to enforce it is quite another matter, because no one in all reason will advance the proposition that we should either be rattling the saber or preventing the intrusion of foreign vessels in our Arctic waters by any offensive unilateral action.

Mr. Aiken: That is all we have left.

Mr. Nielsen: Yes, as the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken) said, that is all we have left. What the Canadian government should do—and I advance this as one who lives in the north and sees the many errors of past Canadian governments of all political stripes—is to take up the torch where Bernier laid it down, to his great credit, and where the government of the day took it up and asserted in no uncertain fashion that Canada owns the Arctic land. They went to the extent of requiring anyone sailing the waters between the islands in our Arctic and overflying the land and waters in our Arctic to be licensed. This government has not the courage to even require vessels like the *Manhattan* to obtain permission. This is wrong. This is pussyfooting so far as sovereignty in the Arctic is concerned, and it is selling our heritage down the river, a heritage which Bernier worked so effectively and ambitiously to secure for Canada.

The policy of the government should be clear. It should be to follow the precedent set by both Liberal and Conservative govern-