

clear to Secretary Rogers that my purpose was not, as some have suggested, to promote the so-called "Mackenzie Route" but rather to impress upon the United States Government its common interest with Canada in the avoidance of a major pollution threat to what my colleague the Minister of the Environment described as "essentially an inland sea around which are population concentrations and substantial economic interests as well as features of great natural beauty and recreational value".

I impressed upon Secretary Rogers that the movement of oil through these waters offered no economic benefit whatever to Canada, while imposing upon Canada almost all the risks of oil pollution. We cannot prevent it legally, we can expect the United States to share our concern and to join in doing everything possible to avoid catastrophe.

Mr. Rogers undertook to let me know very shortly about arrangements for special joint studies into this environmental problem. In return, I agreed with him that such joint studies could include oil pollution problems on the Atlantic Seaboard where the movement of tankers to Canadian ports could threaten their environment. I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that our views are being made known in a way as to have a bearing on United States consideration of the matter before final decisions are taken.