One great difficulty in safeguarding extensive areas of the Arctic landscape with its flora and fauna has always been the absence of a systematic inventory of biological resources. This understandable, but nevertheless regrettable, deficiency has in recent years resulted in bitter arguments between representatives of northern resource industries, who sometimes reason that their influence on ecosystems in the vast Arctic is surely minimal, and southern-based conservationists who in speaking so readily of the "fragility" of Arctic ecosystems often appear to object in principal to any development of the North. Both groups take advantage of the real ambivalence towards development on the part of native groups in Canada in order to bolster their arguments whenever it suits them. However, increasing demand for natural resources and the compromises inevitable between developers and conservationists will lead to gradual disappearance of the larger mammals and destruction of northern fish resources unless specific areas are set aside now to remain in perpetuity from any development, or at least from certain kinds of development. The safeguarding of substantial representative samples of the Arctic landscape in their natural state could probably best be accomplished through the establishment of a number of large national parks, together with a substantial number of ecological reserves containing breeding and feeding areas important to particular species of birds and mammals. In the process, the restrictions necessarily imposed on the resource industries in their exploration and development of what will be still a small percentage of the Arctic landscape should serve not only to safeguard Canada's Arctic heritage for future generations but also to reduce public opposition to responsible development in the remaining areas.

The stage on which Simpson occupied a