

Water Resources Programs

But this bill does not do that, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we have presented this amendment. When this measure was designed, the impression was created that this "bureaucratic and jurisdictional maze" would be eliminated. The minister is here. I am glad to see him. Although it has been definitely stated that this jurisdictional maze would be eliminated, we see no evidence whatsoever in the bill that this is correct. One of my prime interests during the past year has been this bill. I have looked at it carefully. We feel that instead of simplifying the bureaucratic and jurisdictional maze, the bill will only make it more complicated. It will set up I do not know how many agencies. The bureaucracy is to be increased. Unless someone is given overriding control over the entire field, we shall see an increase in bureaucracy. As it is our bureaucratic maze is becoming larger day by day. Day after day, largely because of this government's lack of planning, new bureaucracies are created to deal with new ideas and new legislation.

• (3:40 p.m.)

On many occasions I have asked how many departments or agencies of government are concerned with pollution matters. A sheet distributed by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources shows that at least 12 departments of government are concerned about pollution; altogether 28 departments and agencies I believe are involved. For instance, involved in pollution matters are the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the minister responsible for housing, because he deals with CMHC, the Department of Finance, the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Indian Affairs, the National Harbours Commission, coming under the Department of Transport, the Privy Council, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Treasury Board. In addition, I do not know how many agencies of government under the aegis of these departments are involved. Altogether, there must be 24 agencies at least, in addition to the departments, that are involved. Actually, I have not found out just how many agencies are concerned with pollution matters.

The reason for this amendment is very simple. We have some little confidence in the present minister and think someone ought to have overriding control over these matters. During the committee hearings someone said that 68 departments and agencies are concerned with pollution. That is absolutely

incredible. I simply cannot understand why someone ought not to be ultimately responsible for matters pertaining to pollution.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the amendment does not specify whether the minister has to deal with the bills introduced by all departments or whether he is responsible for the pollution problems which are the concern of other departments.

The amendment specifies that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) must act when any action is to be taken to check pollution in a field which does not already come under the jurisdiction of a minister, of the federal government, of a provincial government, of a federal board or of a municipality.

[*English*]

We do not want the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to interfere with the work of the Minister of Fisheries because the latter minister has done a great job in matters of pollution, as has his department. We want the fisheries department to be strong and to be kept strong. When there is an emergency, we want someone to have overriding authority. We do not want that authority to be delegated to other departments or provincial authorities. So, as I said earlier, this amendment is really very simple. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, when dealing with the report of the International Joint Commission, listed many departments and agencies of government involved in matters of pollution. His remarks supplement my argument, because I submit someone must have ultimate control in this area. In this area we want no vacuum. When an emergency arises, someone must have ultimate, overriding control.

We do not ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources—and it may be the present minister or any other minister—to occupy himself with matters pertaining to the Department of Fisheries or any other department or provincial agency that has had delegated to it some authority to deal with some aspect of pollution. We simply ask someone to have overriding control over the whole area in order that emergencies may be met. That authority cannot be delegated to other departments.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I intend to be brief but wish to say a few words on the amendment before