

*Government Organization*On clause 47—*Other services*

Mr. Crouse: In respect of clause 47, I wonder whether the minister could give us a little better explanation of what this clause means. It states that nothing in this part precludes the minister from providing, with the prior approval of the Governor in Council, any services that are within the ambit of the duties, powers and functions of the minister under this part. Could the minister amplify the responsibility this clause defines?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, this clause enables the minister, subject to a request from a customer department or agency and approval of the Governor in Council, to provide any services dealt with in the act on behalf of Crown corporations and other government organizations. The services in respect of purchasing and supply at the federal level can be further increased, if these services are requested, to provincial or municipal governments in Canada so long as the cost would be recoverable from the agency concerned. If it should become evident that in respect of some bulk purchase we could be of assistance to a provincial government or some other agency we are not prohibited from doing that, provided the cost is recovered.

In so far as Crown corporations are concerned, the act stipulates that there are certain classes of Crown corporations which are automatically included in the procurement responsibilities of the department. Some are outside such as, for example, the C.N.R. and the C.B.C. This, however, is an enabling clause in the sense that if these agencies wish to take advantage of our purchasing capability they have the ability to do so and we have the ability to respond.

[*Translation*]

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 47 carry?

Mr. Fortin: I would like to ask a very short question, Mr. Chairman.

Could the Minister of Supply and Services tell us if the appointment of auditors for the various Crown corporations will come under his jurisdiction now that his department and the office of the Treasury Board have merged?

[*English*]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, I would have to take this question as notice. In terms of all the departments, my inclination would be, I

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

would think, that in some instances the answer may be yes and in others no. I am not sure about the uniform nature of this, and whether we do it for every one. I would suspect with regard to certain Crown corporations, such as Canadian Arsenals, that the auditing would be done by government auditors. It may be also that the Polymer Corporation might have its own auditors as well as the government audit. I shall be glad to look into the matter and give my hon. friend a detailed reply.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 48—*Queen's Printer*

[*Translation*]

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 48 carry?

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, a moment ago, in the course of my remarks, I asked the minister what had happened in respect of the Queen's Printer.

According to some statements made by the Prime Minister, the Queen's Printer was transferred or dismissed sometime in December. Could the minister tell us to which department the Queen's Printer was transferred and whether this was done against his will or not so that we may send him a letter to congratulate him.

[*English*]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, there has been no change in the status of the Queen's Printer. Until such time as this bill is enacted, the Queen's Printer and the gentleman who holds that title are as they have always been. As for the future of the gentleman in question, once the bill is enacted I undoubtedly will be holding discussions with him. I think my friend can be reasonably sure we will reach an amicable decision as to his future.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Does the minister mean that Mr. Duhamel is still employed by the federal government as the Queen's Printer?

[*English*]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Duhamel is still in the government service and still the Queen's Printer. He is official Queen's Printer until such time as this act goes through. At that time an official of the department will be designated as Queen's Printer but Mr. Duhamel, as of now, is the Queen's Printer.