

tomorrow. If we make progress with that bill tomorrow we would move on to the report stage of Bill C-102, with regard to drug prices.

Both Monday and Tuesday of next week will be devoted to allotted days for the opposition.

On Wednesday we hope to call the report stage and third reading of Bill C-172 with regard to the Financial Administration Act, assuming that it has been reported back to the house in time by the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. This will be followed by further consideration of the report stage of Bill C-102 on drug prices which will be continued on Thursday if it has not been completed on Wednesday.

Next Friday, as I have already indicated, we intend to call the report stage and third reading of Bill C-178 with regard to the Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act, to be followed by second reading of Bill S-15.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY AND OTHER NEW DEPARTMENTS

The house resumed from Wednesday, March 12, consideration in committee of Bill C-173, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters relating or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

The Chairman: When the committee rose on Wednesday clauses 20 to 40 had been allowed to stand, and part IV of the bill, clause 41, had been called.

On clause 41—"Minister".

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, a number of explanations have been given at various times concerning the new Department of Supply and Services, most recently at the time of the submission of the estimates of this department, and I believe that hon. members have a fairly comprehensive idea of the components which will make up the new department. However it may be useful at the outset if I take a few moments to recapitulate some of the points so that hon. members may have a clear and immediate picture of just what is planned.

The new Department of Supply and Services is, in the first instance, a combination of

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the present Department of Defence Production as well as of the various functions now performed by the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury. One is the supply side of the department, the other is the service side. In addition, several other responsibilities have been added because it appears to us that they fall within the general objective that we have in mind, which is to establish what is essentially a common services agency for all government departments.

I think perhaps hon. members who are familiar with the Glassco report on government reorganization will know that what we are proposing here is on all fours with what the Glassco commission recommended. Indeed, some of the steps leading up to the formation of the department have been taken already and the results of these have been satisfactory and beneficial by and large.

Briefly, to give the committee the elements making up the supply side of the department there is, as I have said, the Department of Defence Production, the bureau of public printing and stationery, the Queen's Printer, and the shipbuilding branch from the Department of Transport. These are the main elements making up the supply side of the department. We have therefore been designated in this legislation as the procurement agency for all government departments. In other words, from the previous arrangement where the Department of Defence Production was primarily concerned with only the Department of National Defence we are now moving to the point where we will be the purchasing and procurement agency for civilian departments of government as well.

This phasing in, if I may call it that, is going to take some time to complete. We have already assumed this purchasing responsibility for perhaps 60 to 70 per cent of the total requirements of the government in the purchasing field, and as a result of this legislation and the continuity of the plan already under way in time we will take on the full 100 per cent.

May I note in passing that the legislation, as hon. members will note, provides as well for the ability on the part of the minister to transfer back to specific agencies certain purchasing functions if it is deemed wise and desirable that these be retained on an individual basis. Of course I suppose the most obvious example of this would be purchasing for the National Gallery. This is a highly specialized type of buying and would not be the kind of thing that we would do through this common service agency.