

Water Resources Programs

ernments, and within various departments of the federal government. This inland water centre is an inter-disciplinary operation, and there is consultation with its counterparts on the American side of the border.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, this amendment would assign to the minister powers which he otherwise would not have and does not require. Under the Canada Water Act he will have the authority for the conservation, management and use of the water resources of Canada. Earlier I mentioned the Inter-Departmental Committee on Water, which at this stage is the co-ordinating body within the federal government in connection with the use of water in and around Canada.

The Standing Committee discussed this amendment for the best part of two meetings, and it was the decision of the committee that it was not within the scope of the bill to create a super-czar of pollution in Canada. In the committee, we felt that reference to the national environment was beyond the scope of the bill, and it was for this reason that the committee decided that the amendment should be rejected.

We have just heard from the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees). It is always a pleasure to hear from him. It provides some form of comic relief for the House. I am sorry the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) was not present to reply on his own behalf, but I am sure he will have that opportunity at a later date.

Mr. Stanfield: He will have quite a job defending that speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on motion no. 4 (Mr. Comeau). All those in favour of the motion will please say yea?

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay?

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

[Mr. Orange.]

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova) moved:

That Bill C-144, An Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be amended by adding a new clause 6A as follows:

"6A. (1) Forthwith upon the coming into force of this Act, the Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the Minister, shall establish water quality standards for all classes of water in Canada.

(2) No person shall deposit or permit the deposit of waste in any waters in Canada that fall below the minimal water quality standard established for those waters under subsection (1); violation of this subsection shall be deemed to be an offence and punishable under section 22."

Mr. Aiken: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, amendment No. 14 is very similar to amendment No. 7, and I believe that Mr. Speaker suggested that they be debated together. No. 14 stands in the name of the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding). I do not know whether he wishes to have this done, but I have a note here that No. 7 and No. 14 both relate to water quality standards and might be debated together, although I am sure the hon. member for Kootenay West would want the questions to be put separately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am little uncertain whether in fact that was the position, but it seems to be a reasonable suggestion. I would just like to confirm that the hon. member for Kootenay West is agreeable to that, since motion No. 14 is in his name. If he is agreeable I am prepared to put his motion now, debate them together, and put the questions separately at the conclusion of the debate.

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker, that was the understanding the other day, that the two motions would be debated together, and I have no objection to it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding) seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) moves:

That Bill C-144, An Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be amended by adding immediately following the word "prescribing" in subclause (1) (a) of clause 16 on page 18 the following:

"from time to time specific water quality standards and levels applicable to all bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the Canada Water Act for the following."