

*Water Resources Programs*

As we are well aware, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry has particular legislation under the Fisheries Act to deal with pollution in respect of fisheries and this amendment does not propose that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources should override that. Then, we have the Canada Water Act under the direct control of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has introduced the Arctic pollution bill, so that is another department dealing with pollution matters. The Department of Transport was involved in the clean-up operation following the *Arrow* incident which resulted in the pollution of the shores of Nova Scotia.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have the Department of Transport, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, all involved in this question of pollution. This afternoon, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) made a statement regarding the JJC, which means yet another minister is involved. Somebody should have ultimate control of these pollution regulations that are in existence to co-ordinate all our efforts.

Last week I visited the Bedford Institute in Halifax and there discussed the *Arrow* incident and the pollution of the Canso area. There did not seem to be anybody acting as co-ordinator. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) had some say in it and so had the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, (Mr. Davis) as well as other departments. I submit that right from the start there should have been somebody with the authority to find the manpower and all the different services necessary for such a major operation. Somebody should have had authority to approach the National Research Council for scientific help. Then, we would have known where we were going and might have solved the problem. I realize this first incident resulted in some experimentation and it has worked very well. We are going to clean up the pollution but we might have done it faster.

Surely, the Department of National Defence might have some interest in the situation as they are equipped to take emergency measures. Some people might think that is not the department to consult as the Department of Fisheries and Forestry deals with Canadian waters generally and has exercised jurisdiction in the past. Mr. Speaker, I do not care

[Mr. Comeau.]

who does the work, who is appointed co-ordinator, but I do care that somebody takes the initiative.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Comeau:** The minister is not here, Mr. Speaker, so we cannot convince him that he should accept these powers. If this amendment is defeated, and probably it will be, we will be proposing a further amendment under a different act, probably the Fisheries Act, because we sincerely believe that there has to be a co-ordinator. Some person must have overriding powers on the many rules and regulations that apply in pollution matters. I suggest that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources should take on the job because many of the bills now before the House depend on the Canada Water Act.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for scientific research. They are in close contact with the scientific community. The Inland Water Centre at Burlington, Ontario, comes under the jurisdiction of that department, so it seems logical that it should be the co-ordinator because of its activities in scientific matters. As I have said before maybe the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources does not have sufficient manpower to do the job. Maybe the Department of National Defence, being responsible for emergency measures and having the manpower and equipment to deal with emergencies, although not the research facilities, should be given the job. This is another idea which seems logical to me, although the government may not feel that National Defence is the appropriate department to take on the responsibility. If they do not, I hope they will tell us exactly what they want to do so that a similar type of amendment can be introduced under other legislation. We definitely feel that there has to be a co-ordination of effort.

This bill was introduced last summer by the minister who is now responsible for the Wheat Board, but who was then the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. At that time, a news release from the department stated,

The proposed new Canada Water Act, announced by the government, is designed to break through "the bureaucratic and jurisdictional maze"—

And I repeat, Mr. Speaker—  
"the bureaucratic and jurisdictional maze" that has up to now bedevilled efforts at water pollution control and conservation, Otto Lang, minister responsible for energy and water resources, said today.