

established. It will carry out a number of functions which other departments previously carried out. This should be the subject of a separate bill so that it could be debated independently of the other issues. It has no relation to the Public Service Superannuation Act which is discussed in Part VII. It does not have any relation to Part VI which relates to the post office. It does not have anything to do with the section dealing with the addition of a number of Parliamentary Secretaries to the government payroll. This is a clear indication that the bill should have been broken down into a number of separate and related topics and presented to the House in that form.

An omnibus bill of this type is an excellent way for the government to try and cover up some of the unpleasant moves it wishes to make by tying them to other pieces of legislation which might be acceptable. Hon. members are given the choice of either accepting or rejecting the whole package. This is not a sensible way of handling the nation's business. I trust that the procedural debate which took place yesterday will result in the elimination of this type of omnibus bill in the future. There are many items covered by the bill, but I intend to confine my remarks to Part I which establishes the new department of the environment. Possibly I should make a few general remarks on pollution before I start.

In May 1969, the United Nations made a report on problems of the human environment. It outlined the crisis of world-wide proportions which faces us in this field. Since that report of almost two years ago, we have increasing evidence of the deterioration which is occurring in every aspect of our environment. Even with warning signals flying everywhere, we are only toying with the problem. No all-out attack has been launched to find solutions to our problems. No concrete, over-all plan has been devised by this government to tackle this major and worsening situation. Perhaps a few comments from the United Nations report would put in proper perspective the need for a measure to launch an all-out attack on our pollution problems, rather than the partial and ineffective solutions offered in Part I of this reorganization bill.

The United Nations report emphasized that for the first time in the history of mankind a crisis of world-wide proportion involving the human environment was arising. The portents of this crisis were apparent in the explosive growth of human populations, the poor integration of a powerful and efficient technology with environmental requirements, the deterioration of agricultural lands, the unplanned extension of urban areas, the decrease of available space, and the growing danger of extinction of many forms of animal and plant life. The report stated that if current trends continued, the future of life on earth could be endangered. In dealing with pesticides, the report indicated that an estimated billion pounds of DDT had been dumped into our environment and that we were adding to it at an estimated rate of 100 million pounds per year. The total world production of pesticides was estimated at over 1,300,000,000 pounds annually.

The report estimated that 500 million hectares of arable land have already been lost through erosion and

#### *Government Organization Act, 1970*

salinization. I point out that a hectare is 2.471 acres of land. Over one billion acres of arable lands have been lost to mankind through various types of mismanagement. The report indicated that two-thirds of the world's forest area has been lost to production and that 150 types of birds and animals have become extinct as a result of man's actions. It estimated that another 1,000 species or races of wild animals are considered to be rare or endangered. A number of these are within the confines of our own country. The report indicated also that erosion, soil deterioration, deforestation, watershed damage and the destruction of animal and plant life continues, and in some areas are accelerating. This over-all type of loss is endangering man's existence on earth. The three basic causes of this deterioration or pollution of the human environment were classed as, the accelerated population growth, increased urbanization, and an expanded and efficient new technology. Each of these was closely associated with the increase in demands for space, food and natural resources. The failure of society to plan for logical and sensible development along these lines was leading to wholesale pollution of our environment and endangering the very existence of mankind on this earth.

Canada is a relatively young nation. We have one of the largest land masses in the world under our control. We have immense resources. Our population in relative terms is small, and yet we find that immense damage has been done to the human environment. Pollution is now classed as one of the major problems facing the Canadian nation. Many forms of wildlife have been endangered. Pesticides are affecting the quality of the fish, meat, and foods we eat. Recreational areas are being destroyed and because of their filthy and unhealthy conditions are being barred from public use. In many of our heavily industrialized areas, air pollution has become a major health hazard. Our Arctic and northern territories, which constitute 40 per cent of Canada's total area, are endangered because of lack of adequate land-use regulations. This is an area where the ecology is extremely fragile. Many of our major waterways are being used as sewers to flush untreated effluents into the lakes and oceans where they can wreck their damage on the ecology there.

We have inherited all these problems because of man's inherent greedy nature and the failure of governments over the years to realize that the prosperity of a nation must not be entirely based on economic values. We have too long worshipped the almighty dollar and allowed the rape of our natural resources to take place on an unprecedented scale, regardless of the consequences. It is up to us today, Mr. Speaker, to make some of the moves which should have been made generations ago, and insist that full and proper protection of our environment be one of the prime objectives of legislators. There will have to be a re-thinking and a re-shaping of the policies of all groups. If this is not done at an accelerated pace within the next few years, we might well find that man's existence on this globe will be extremely limited.

The bill before us is called the Government Organization Act, 1970. It provides for a re-organization of several government departments. It sets up a new department called the Department of the Environment. This new