

with the work of the department. Therefore, the time that he can devote to policy considerations will become increasingly less, and there are still many fisheries problems unsolved. We have been waiting since 1964 for action on our territorial sea and fishing zone legislation and we are still waiting. There has been no settlement as yet of the thorny problems surrounding the fishing rights of the French on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

I also note that Bill C-207 provides for the appointment of an officer called the Deputy Minister of the Environment, to be the deputy head of the Department of the Environment. The *Montreal Gazette* of January 7 reported that the present holder of the position of Deputy Minister of Fisheries will be retiring a few months in advance of his 65th birthday to make way for a new appointee. The proposed appointee has a good reputation for competence, arising out of his success as deputy commissioner general of Expo 67, but a resumé of his previous activities makes no mention of any experience in matters relating to fisheries. The press release from the Prime Minister's office also expressed appreciation for Dr. Needler's services, and expressed the hope that the government would be able to call on him for special assignments and advice, especially in the fisheries field where he is an acknowledged authority.

Dr. Needler has been associated with the fisheries department in different capacities since 1929. In my opinion, a man of this calibre should have been retained, in order to strengthen the Canadian delegation at the International Law of the Sea Conference in 1972. It would seem that the fisheries branch will fast become the unwanted stepchild of the new Department of the Environment, and this could spell disaster for many people in Atlantic Canada where fishing is a way of life.

There are many other questions that could be raised on this section of the bill. For example, the legislation outlines the job that must be done, but it does not say who will pay the bills. Further, it mentions co-operation with the provinces and the municipalities, but it provides no mechanism for establishing pollution controls. Who will train pollution control officers? Will the federal government pay for their training and their salaries when they are posted throughout Canada?

These are some of the questions unanswered by the bill, but as time is passing, I must turn briefly to the other sections of Bill C-207. While I stated my agreement with some reservations to the establishment of the Department of the Environment, I cannot agree with Part IV of this bill cited as the Ministries and Ministers of State Act. The proposal would permit up to five ministers of state to be in existence at one time. This is a preposterous recommendation, a proposal which cannot and should not be approved by this House. We have at the present time the largest Cabinet in this country's history, with a total of 29 including the Prime Minister.

I suppose no one can say this enormous cabinet has not been effective, for by putting their heads together, by working as a unit, this cabinet has been successful in establishing a situation in Canada where we see more

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than 6 per cent of our labour force presently unemployed. This was one of this government's objectives, namely to create a little slack in the economy. The little slack developed into a slump, and the dark shadow of the worst winter of unemployment in history is today threatening our work force of eight and one half million Canadians. A survey among our top economists, labour leaders, and businessmen shows that they expect an army of some 750,000 to be unemployed this winter.

However, it is evident that this government has plans to improve the lot of those with low incomes by appointing five additional ministers. In addition, the bill proposes the appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary for every minister who holds an office for which a salary is provided in Section 4 of the Salaries Act. There are 16 parliamentary secretaries at present, receiving an additional \$4,000 per year, and the proposals to increase the cabinet and allow each minister a Parliamentary Secretary can only be termed political piracy of the public purse by this Liberal government.

This is a devious, socialistic piece of legislation, the aim of which is only to increase the number of ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries without having any specific duties for them. This is not only a socialistic proposal for the expansion of Ottawa's bureaucracy, but the course of action proposed in this bill further diminishes the powers of Parliament and makes a mockery of elections in which people vote for a Member of Parliament in the sincere hope and belief that once elected he will have some say over their affairs, over their laws, over the manner in which they are governed. This situation no longer exists under this government, which seeks to undermine the power of Parliament so that it can ride roughshod over the wishes of the Canadian people.

Listen to the words which call for the establishment of Ministries of State:

Where it appears to the Governor in Council that the requirements for formulating and developing new and comprehensive policies in relation to any matter or matters coming within the responsibility of the Government of Canada warrant the establishment for the time being of a special portion of the public service of Canada presided over by a Minister charged with responsibility for the formulation and development of such policies, the Governor in Council may, by proclamation, establish a Ministry of State for that purpose.

Under this legislation, the House would not even be permitted an opportunity to debate the proposal to establish a new ministry, and I cannot help but wonder why we are debating Bill C-207. Why did the government not go ahead and set up the Department of the Environment and do all the other things for which this bill provides by Proclamation? Why does this government bother to keep up the sham of even considering Parliament? Obviously, it is only a sham and a show put on to mislead the voters of Canada into believing that, indirectly through their vote, they have a say in the policies and programs introduced by this government.

What a sham and what a delusion! By Proclamation, the Governor in Council can establish at its discretion up