

the environment etc. We will all benefit and it will be a less costly way to produce products. I am optimistic about what we are doing. We have sent one of the scientists from the Regina station to Australia for a year to learn new methods from them.

Concerning health and welfare being named in the legislation, all I can say on that is that the Minister for National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) and myself are both members of the cabinet committee which goes over the legislation before it is put before cabinet and presented to the House. We both agreed that it was not necessary in this legislation at this time.

To support the hon. member's suggestions on an independent committee, I am sure the hon. member is aware that we have an independent committee now headed by Dr. McGugan, who picked his own members to study Captan. We made suggestions to him about who should serve on the committee, but he would not take the chairmanship of the committee under those terms, so I allowed him to choose his own members, people he thought were qualified to bring in an independent report. If that report is as he says it will be, an independent, thorough report, then we hope to be able to give him more work of that kind, if he will do it for us. There are other people in a similar capacity to Dr. McGugan who can do that sort of thing for us. We will abide by their findings. As far as I am concerned, they are highly qualified people. They come from universities and from the sector that is best qualified. I believe that is all I can say, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, I have two questions for the minister. The bill binds provincial governments. Have all provincial governments agreed on that or are the provinces being bound unilaterally?

Second, we have the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts). He is trained to deal with the environment. His responsibility is to make sure that we leave a good environment for our children. Why does this bill not involve the Minister of the Environment?

**The Chairman:** I see hon. members rising, and the Chair has an eye on the clock. Perhaps other hon. members may be recognized and then the Minister of Agriculture can speak.

**Mr. McMillan:** Mr. Chairman, my question very closely parallels that of the hon. member for Bow River. I am puzzled that the Minister of the Environment is not here. In his absence, one could be forgiven for wondering whether the Minister of the Environment has been consulted about this bill. Has he had any input? Does he agree with it? Why is he not here?

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Chairman, my question relates to the fumigation of the golden nematode. I am sure the minister is aware that fumigation has taken place and that it has not been effective. Could the minister, perhaps not today but by correspondence, give me some indication of what plans there are to make sure that those golden nematodes,

which are causing such damage in the Saanich peninsula, can be eliminated?

**Mr. Nickerson:** Mr. Chairman, I have one question. Would I be correct in assuming that, if this bill is passed into law, the Pest Control Products Act would then be binding upon the Department of National Defence with respect to defoliants used for military use? If that is indeed the case, what consultation has taken place on this matter between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of National Defence?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Chairman, I will make this as short as possible. The bill, I understand, is by agreement with the provinces. They want the over-all kind of legislation for all producers. I understand that has been taken care of. As far as the questions concerning the Minister of the Environment is concerned, I want to say that he has certainly been very much involved. We had a very close working relationship with his department and with the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Concerning the question of the golden nematodes, I can give the hon. member that kind of information. What we have tried to do has been very costly. In essence, what we are going to do is to ban the growing of potatoes there and work out some kind of a compensation program for the farmers in that area.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps hon. members might find a disposition not to see the clock until third reading has been completed.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Chairman, did the minister answer the part about the provinces and the provincial governments?

**Mr. Whelan:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have an understanding with the provinces. The hon. member asked about the military. We still work very closely with them in recommending any of the products. In case of war though I do not know whether we would have any authority for them at all.

**The Chairman:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Chairman:** Shall Clause 1 carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

Clause 1 agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall the title carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

Title agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall the bill carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** Shall I rise and report the bill?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.