

I am unable to understand why the minister should be reluctant to see the word "national" added. The fact that the President of the Treasury Board comes from Quebec may have much to do with his attitude in this respect. When we talk about issues which affect Quebec in any way, there seems to be a particular reluctance to attempt to remove from that province any of the authority it might have. He knows that if there is agreement between the authorities concerned, the standard which is ultimately reached will be in effect a national standard accepted by all who take part in anti-pollution programs. I see in the chamber today a number of members from the Ottawa Valley, the Ottawa River basin, who know full well that the effort of the national government will be paramount when it comes to dealing with the pollution of that river.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I have been very concerned during the last few weeks, as have many other members, as we have travelled across the country investigating another area in which a national standard will have to be established. I refer to the agricultural commodities. Again we have found, not so much a reluctance on the part of the provinces to make an agreement with the federal government to allow the federal government to establish national standards and quotas as a reluctance on the part of the federal government to take any initiative. I would be interested to hear the minister tell the committee whether or not the law clerks who drafted this piece of legislation were different from those who drafted the clean air legislation which makes reference to the word "national" in many instances. Certainly there has been a reluctance to refer to national standards in this legislation.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission will have a great deal to say in regard to standards to be established to control the pollution of this interprovincial waterway, which frankly is all that we are talking about. If we are talking of intraprovincial pollution, then the provinces will have their own standards. As far as interprovincial pollution is concerned, we will have to take into consideration the standards that are set by all provinces, and the mean that will be arrived at will be the national standard.

In this regard we are continually raising the old bugaboo of the Constitution. I suggest that if the federal government got off its fanny and made a decision in this matter, the decision would never be taken to the Supreme Court on appeal; the provinces would either meet the standards or would not do so. It has been suggested that if we are going to improve the environment, this is one area where the federal government can exercise a great deal of authority. In most instances the expenditure of money will be called for. In this regard I am reminded of a discussion I had a week or so ago with the Minister of Agriculture of the province of Quebec. We were discussing the constitutional problem of just what belongs to the provinces and what belongs to the federal government and I was interested to hear him say, "You put money into it and you will have jurisdiction over it. There will not be any worry if you put money

Government Organization Act, 1970
into it". He suggested that the federal government has been able to get control of national dairy marketing because the federal government has put money into it.

This reminds me of the story of the young man who asked a young lady if she would go upstairs with him for \$1 million.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Peters: She said she would. Then he said, "Well, how about a couple of bucks?" and she replied, "What do you think I am?" He said, "Well, we have established that; all we are dickering about is price". It seems to me that on this question of the Constitution all we are dickering about is price and I suggest my story is a parallel. If, as the Minister of Agriculture of Quebec said, you are willing to put money into something, then you need not worry about the jurisdiction.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I apologize if there are tender ears in this place. I suppose the hon. member for St. Boniface has more tender ears than anybody else. Perhaps the facts of life are now known to him, and if so I apologize to him for shocking his sensibilities. If I can get back to the matter of control of the environment, in many instances the municipalities have a responsibility that they are not in a position to carry out. In many cases the provincial governments are not in a position to carry out the responsibilities that they have.

It seems to me that if the federal government is really interested in creating work for people it should quit playing around with programs such as the area development incentive program, under which the cost per job is \$50,000, and start doing something to control pollution of the environment from the municipal point of view. If we spent \$1,000 per job in the municipalities we would probably make quite a contribution toward the creation of a cleaner environment. This is particularly true in the Ottawa Valley and the upper Ottawa in which I have very great interest. There are hon. members of the House who represent constituencies situated along this great waterway which stretches pretty well from the north to the south of the province, and I am sure most of them would agree that the establishment of national standards for the Ottawa River is absolutely necessary. To do so will require the co-operation of hundreds of municipalities in the elimination of their pollution of this large waterway. For its part the federal government will have to assist the provinces in their supplementation of the resources of the municipalities.

If the President of the Treasury Board opposes the idea of having a national standard established or promoted as a national objective for controlling the quality of the environment, then he must be admitting that this is a matter that should remain with the provinces or with the municipalities or with someone else. I think anybody who has examined pollution will realize that the national government will have to set standards and in most cases will have to help the municipalities, the provinces and industry of this nation to meet those standards. I think