

Government Organization

I would therefore like to support his amendment and congratulate the government upon incorporating in this act a section from the old act, and for not letting it float around. I think you will find that this section will strengthen tremendously the power of the minister.

I have another matter which I wish to mention briefly, so as to avoid speaking again. The Prime Minister made a promise that each of the new ministers would make a statement. I do not want to hold up this legislation and if I could get from the minister presiding over the legislation some sort of an indication which would appear in the record that the minister, when making his statement on estimates to the house, will deal with a number of very important policy statements, I will be satisfied.

Mr. Churchill: Which minister?

Mr. Hamilton: The minister of energy, mines and resources. I am asking that the minister indicate his thinking on a number of policy matters which are causing grave concern across the country. That would be satisfactory to me. I know where the minister is and I know how important it is for him to be present at the meeting of the Canadian Council for Resource Ministers in Winnipeg; but I would like to list, for the convenience of the minister a number of questions that are on our minds.

• (7:20 p.m.)

We should like to know what is the minister's policy in relation to the national oil policy on such questions as (a) setting annual targets to industry. We have not had a statement from the minister on this subject for two years now. Then, (b), what is the attitude of the minister toward building a refinery at Quebec, which negates the background of the whole national oil policy? (c) What is his policy on the second oil pipe line to Montreal? (d) What is his attitude toward oil and gas regulations in the north—and I am particularly dealing with the continental shelf? (e) What are his attitudes with regard to the oil and gas regulations on the continental shelf which are now in existence? These are matters, Mr. Chairman, vital to the whole future of Canada, and we must have a clear-cut statement from the minister so that we know where we are going.

The second major question which I want to put before the committee for the minister to discuss when he makes his statement deals with the national energy policy. We should

[Mr. Hamilton.]

like from the minister some statement (a) as to the relations he foresees between the Federal Power Commission of the United States and the National Energy Board of Canada. There is obviously trouble brewing on this front unless there is a clear-cut policy to avoid the difficulties ahead. Then, (b), we also want from the new minister a statement on the national transmission grid, which is vital to the whole concept of sovereignty and using our energy as a basic part of strengthening our bargaining power in the field of resource use on the continent. (c) We should like a statement from the minister with regard to the relationship between atomic power and hydro reserves in Canada. (d) We should like projections on what the minister foresees is the energy demand for new industrial complexes in Canada during the next 20 to 30 years.

The third subject, Mr. Chairman, deals with water policy. (a) We desperately need something which has been recommended since 1962, and that is a study on the supply of water in Canada. I can go into detail on this, but that is sufficient to indicate the subject. (b) Even more importantly, we need a study of the demand. If we have to use United States figures and translate them into figures showing Canadian use, this is a little embarrassing when we are trying to estimate our demand for water. Before we can discuss water intelligently we have to know the supply and demand picture. Then, (c), we should like from the minister officially in his new capacity a statement on the NAPA plan which the United States has proposed and has been pushing on the legislators of this country in private sessions. And, (d), we should like a statement from the minister on the Kiernan plan proposed by a Canadian engineer. We should like the direction of the minister on these subjects.

That, Mr. Chairman, is a list of the 12 or 13 subjects which are the real pressure points for those of us who are trying to resolve our policy in connection with energy, minerals and resources. Instead of my waiting for the minister to make a statement before asking these questions, I would ask the minister in charge in the committee whether he would convey to the minister of energy, mines and resources these examples of the type of questions upon which we should like a statement from him when he speaks on his estimates.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I would be most pleased to undertake to bring the questions that my hon. friend has raised to the