

*Water Resources Programs*

being informed of something that has become a fait accompli. That is why this course commends itself.

I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will come back into the chamber. I do not see him here now, although he was present earlier during the question period. I hope he will come back and endorse this motion and the previous motion. I am not wedded to the paternity of the thing, but the idea should be endorsed by somebody, and that somebody should be the government of Canada as well as all the members who are here in Parliament.

If the words do not exactly commend themselves to the law officers of the Crown, or to the minister or to the government, I am not wedded to them either. They can be changed. The important thing is not particularly the words used in the formula. What I am asking Parliament and the government to do is to say that if we are dealing with this great Canadian resource, we will do it in a way that everybody in Parliament will have a say in the decisions that are made.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is on motion No. 25 (Mr. McCleave). All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea?

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay?

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Speaker:** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Is it the pleasure of the House that we now revert to motion No. 4 standing in the name of the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau)?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova)** moved:

That Bill C-144, An Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development

and utilization of water resources be amended by inserting therein, next after clause 2 thereof, the following:

"Ministerial Responsibility

3. The duties, powers and functions of the Minister extend to and include all matters

(a) not exclusively assigned to the legislatures of the provinces or by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the government of Canada that relate to the control and management of the water resources of Canada and to the preservation, improvement and restoration of the quality of the national environment by the prevention, elimination and limitation of the pollution of water resources and the pollution of any natural element that in any way might or does pollute a water resource; and

(b) necessary or incidental to such duties, powers and functions although so assigned." and by renumbering the subsequent clauses accordingly.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am a bit unprepared because yesterday, as I told you, I entered my first procedural debate and apparently I won. Today, therefore, I was more prepared for motion No. 7, which is also in my name. However, the House will probably be fortunate in that I will be a bit briefer. The purpose of the amendment is very simple. It is simply to insert a clause in the bill to give the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) all the powers necessary in connection with the control, the management, the preservation, the improvement and the restoration of the quality of the national environment. The government probably will not accept this amendment because they will say that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources should not be responsible. Maybe they would like to designate some other minister.

● (3:30 p.m.)

We have looked at the various bills before the committee and the House and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that if this amendment is defeated we shall produce another one under a different bill. Somebody on the government side should definitely take action and be the co-ordinator for the whole pollution problem.

Since last fall many bills have been introduced which relate to pollution, but I do not think it is necessary to name them. Looking at the whole array of bills that have been presented, the regulations that have been mentioned and the amendments proposed, as well as the many other discussions held by various departments and ministers, it becomes clear that somebody must be given overriding control on pollution matters.