

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

new department will serve the interests of those engaged in fisheries and forestry operations even more effectively than they have in the past.

The renewable resources elements of the new department will be in partnership with the new environmental quality activities of the federal government which were recently transferred to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. The water sector of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, one of the recent transfers, is concerned both with the quality of water and with the management of water as a resource. These two responsibilities are, for all practical purposes, inseparable. This was the conclusion last summer when the House passed the Canada Water Act which embodies the concept of integrated management for water.

The minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) will retain his responsibilities for all energy matters, including the generation of hydro-electric power. The new Department of the Environment will, however, continue to provide the bulk of the water surveys and related information required by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in its activities concerning the development of hydro-electric power.

Certain important water pollution monitoring and control activities of the Department of National Health and Welfare have also been transferred to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry and will form part of the new department.

The bulk of the air pollution programs of the Department of National Health and Welfare have likewise been transferred to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, since these have assumed the brunt of the federal government's fight against air pollution.

The transfer of the Meteorological Branch of the Department of Transport to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry will complement these air pollution programs. Thereby forming the nucleus of the new department's concerns for atmospheric quality. There is, of course, a close inter-relationship between concern for water and for atmospheric matters.

● (4:20 p.m.)

[*English*]

I would like to enlarge upon some aspects of the role of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources now that its former responsibilities for water have been transferred from the minister of that department to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis). An increasing emphasis must be placed on the development of our energy and mineral resources. These are likely to be two of the most important areas of national interest in the 70's; they are keys to the future. Powerful states and great societies will be mightily concerned about them, as we who have them so richly in our inheritance, must also be. It is with this understanding that the responsibilities of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for the development of comprehensive and coordinated policies in these areas have become substantially greater in the last year or so.

[Mr. Drury.]

I am sure that I do not have to remind the House, Mr. Speaker, of the recent successful efforts directed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) which will result in greater access for Canadian oil to the U.S. markets. Efforts of this kind, which the Government has accelerated in the last year or so, must be based on full and clear understanding of the energy and mineral resources of Canada and the implications for the well-being of Canadians of their exploitation and marketing, as well as of the impact on the quality of the environment.

Parts II and III of the bill, Mr. Speaker, deal with matters consequential on the establishment of the Department of Environment, as well as a few other matters which do not affect the principle of this bill.

Accordingly, I will move on to Part IV, the Ministries and Ministers of State Act. The warp and woof of our ministerial system is very complex. Strands of history and tradition are interwoven with elementary political principles and the basic values of our society to form a continuously evolving fabric. One does not tamper with this system except with very good reason and after the most careful consideration.

Situated at the interface between Crown and Parliament or, as those educated in the American tradition might say, between the executive and the legislature, the ministerial system is in many respects the essential characteristic of our form of government. As such, its development is rightly very much of concern to Parliament generally, and to this House in particular. One of the reasons, then, for bringing forward in the form of legislation the changes envisaged by this bill, is that doing so affords an opportunity for us to talk about the ministerial system, to review how it has evolved in recent years and how it may evolve in the future.

A good point of departure for such a discussion is perhaps an obeisance to the fundamental constitutional principle that it is the Crown's business to organize itself for the administration of the affairs of state, and Parliament's business to guide and supervise that administration by grants to or withdrawals from the executive of duties, powers and functions and of the funds with which to exercise them. Hon. members will immediately recognize that these statements are clearly very great simplifications, one might even say over-simplifications, but it is necessary to be somewhat rudimentary in order that we never lose sight of the basic principles and concepts on which that system is built.

How the Crown organizes itself and how Parliament, in effect, supervises that organization differs considerably as between Great Britain and Canada. We, of course, are rooted in British traditions and have the great advantage of being able to look from time to time at parliamentary institutions in Britain and elsewhere in the world for refreshment, stimulation and occasional correction. None the less, it is hardly surprising that having had our own independent legislatures for over 200 years and this Parliament for over 100 years, we now have many independent ways of our own, customs and conventions that are clearly uniquely Canadian.

Of Great Britain's ministerial system one can really say that the Crown may organize itself as it sees fit.