

*Statutory Instruments*

In addition, the act of 1971 gives the public the right of access to statutory instruments, that it might be better informed about the provisions of the law which concern them more specifically, that is the standards that become law because they are statutory instruments or regulations adopted by virtue of enabling legislation passed by act of Parliament.

The third means of ensuring more protection to the public against the regulatory powers of the state is that most statutory instruments are permanently subjected to the control of the committee.

To perform that useful and really efficient task, and to respect the legislative spirit, the committee, following long and serious discussions, agreed to formulate the criteria that will guide it throughout its evaluation and appreciation of the statutory instruments it will have to study, criteria that are subject to the approval of the House.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks to give an idea of the work we are doing in this new committee—my colleague from Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) outlined a few aspects of it a moment ago—to bring it further to hon. members' attention.

For example, I am thinking of an amendment to the regulations on the zoning of urban development in Banff. This may seem unimportant. The cadastral map of urban development in Banff, to which the annex gives legal force, is printed. These are the comments that were made to the committee because the annex was said to be on so small a scale as to be a considerable inconvenience to those who will use it.

I repeat that it may seem trivial to bring this matter to the attention of the committee or the members of this House, but anyone who is interested in or affected by these regulations needs more than a pair of glasses to discover the number of a given lot, to know where it is located, whether there is a street at some place and what is the name of that street. It is illegible. It may be a small thing, but without the possible consequences of other regulations.

My colleague from Greenwood already drew attention to an amendment to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act Regulations. The committee was made aware of certain relatively grim remarks on these regulations, and it is doubtful whether such regulations are legally established.

May I also refer to the Canadian Wheat Board Regulations, SOR 74-571. They are not very long regulations, but it was found that the preamble makes no reference to the section of the law under which they are established. Sometimes the subsection may not be noticed. One might think this is of no consequence, but if by any chance there is no authority in the act for establishing regulations, if the authorizing subsection does not exist, then we are faced with a situation quite harmful to the rights of citizens.

Such are, Madam Speaker, my comments on the report by the co-chairman of our committee. Incidentally, I want to congratulate the chairman, Senator Forsey, as well as our co-chairman the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) for their good work. I wish also to congratulate the former co-chairman, the hon. member for Fundy-Royal

[Mr. Béchard.]

(Mr. Fairweather), who was one of the first leaders of this committee.

I concur with the remarks made by hon. members who spoke before me, and ask the House to approve the report submitted by the chairman.

● (1500)

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS ACT

#### MEASURES TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CONTAMINANTS

The House resumed, from Thursday, December 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp (for the Minister of the Environment) that Bill C-25, to protect human health and the environment from substances that contaminate the environment, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Madam Speaker, my comments this afternoon are without prejudice to the ruling which might very well be expected during the afternoon or early next week regarding an amendment that was placed on the table yesterday.

The notions underlying this particular legislation are important. They reflect directly popular fears and misgivings. They are notions which find expression vocally more and more frequently among people of all ages and of all walks of life across the breadth of our land. These notions, of course, centre on matters related to pollution. In an earlier intervention in this particular matter during a previous parliament I became confused between pollution and contaminants. Therefore, for the purpose of this discussion I propose to consider the two words as virtually synonymous. Our generation, or perhaps I should say those who live in today's world of all generations, those who have been brought up on the works of Rachel Carson, and Thor Heyerdahl on the ocean and oceanography, are acutely aware of the dangerous situation pollutants of all sorts inflict on our way of life.

● (1510)

We are pollution conscious these days, and I think it is high time that this is so. We have been highly sensitized and we respond, which is all to the good. If at this stage I may be permitted a marginal comment of a broad philosophical nature, let me say that whenever I think of