

of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be amended by adding thereto after clause 2 a new clause 3 as follows:

“3. (a) The management of the water resources of Canada is hereby vested in the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources;

(b) the management of the water resources of Canada is deemed to include the total jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada with relation to the control of environmental pollution in Canada, not only as to the waters themselves but as to the soil through which they are fed, and the air which transmits substances to them;

(c) it is hereby declared that the total jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, referred to in subclause (b) means the responsibility for the maintenance of the quality of national environment, and includes its authority in relation to internal, boundary, coastal and interprovincial waters, and to navigation and works thereon, the fisheries therein, the health of persons using the same, the power to enact criminal law, and to any other factor affecting the quality thereof; save only the powers specifically reserved to the provinces relating thereto;

(d) when other departments of the federal government have been assigned, or have undertaken duties relating to the maintenance of the quality of the national environment, the Minister of Mines and Resources shall be responsible for co-ordinating activities in all departments, and for the better performance of such co-ordinating authority there shall be appointed by the Governor in Council a National Pollution Abatement Commission composed of five members which shall investigate and report to the Minister annually upon the state of environmental pollution control in Canada, and whose report shall be tabled in the House of Commons within 30 days of its presentation;

(e) the Governor in Council may make regulations concerning the duties of the Commission, as may be required.”

and by renumbering subsequent clauses accordingly.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: As honourable Members know we had a rather lengthy and interesting procedural debate yesterday and I assured honourable Members that the matters raised during that debate would be considered. I am now in a position to give honourable Members the dubious advantage of the result of this consideration. When the House entered upon the consideration of the report stage of Bill C-144, 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, the Chair raised a point of order with regard to the regularity of several motions set down as proposed amendments to Bill C-144. At that time the Chair suggested there were some procedural difficulties in relation to motions numbered, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16.

I might say that reservations were also expressed in relation to I believe motions 6 and 25. However, after hearing argument on these two motions the Chair felt that the honourable Members who proposed these motions should be given the benefit of the doubt. Debate was initiated on motions 6 and 25. This is the reason the honourable Member for Halifax-East Hants has the floor in connection with his own motion number 25.