

*Clean Air Act*

and it can only come from the federal government. Until the federal government is prepared to make a budget available for dealing with pollution problems, these regulations cannot be enforced.

The whole question of international agreements in this field is an interesting one. A few weeks ago the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) tabled a report in the House dealing with the pollution of the Great Lakes and other matters. The report stated that it would cost something like \$66 million to clean up the air to the standard of Ontario's maximum permissible pollution levels and that most of the money would have to be spent in the heavily-industrialized Windsor-Detroit area. Obviously, money has to be provided, and, equally obviously, good international relations must be established with the United States.

These are only some of the difficulties the minister will have to face. I trust he will be prepared to accept amendments put forward from this side of the House in the course of the debate. We shall be prepared to explain our objections to the measure more fully in committee.

**Mr. Harding:** It is almost one o'clock, Mr. Speaker. May I call it one o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. The hon. member for St. John's East has a point of order.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order which relates to our proceedings at the present time. Prior to the adjournment at one o'clock the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) made the point that this bill was not properly before the House—at least, that was the thrust of his remarks—because the interpretative clause of the bill, clause 2, paragraph (h) defines the minister as the minister of the environment. There is no minister of the environment.

There is at the present time a bill before Parliament, Bill C-207, the government organization bill, and included in that bill is a section dealing with the proposed department of the environment. That bill is presently under debate before the committee of the whole House. I have an amendment to it, also currently being debated, which seeks to change the name of the proposed department of the environment to department of fisheries and the environment. Consequently, I submit to Your Honour that this bill is not properly before the House because it is consequential upon Parliament passing Bill C-207. Parliament has not given its consent to Bill C-207. Accord-

[Mr. Comeau.]

ingly, I submit to Your Honour that the bill now before the House should be withdrawn until the House has disposed of Bill C-207.

• (2:10 p.m.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Are there any other comments?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, you will recall arguments of the same kind made in the House during the last session when we had a number of bills of an interrelated nature dealing with the question of water pollution, and more specifically the Canada Water Act. At that time the Chair had the opportunity of considering similar points of order and rejected at that time those points. In response to the hon. gentleman I should like to suggest that the question has been considered by the Chair in the past, and I would invite the Chair to examine this precedent of last year. In the meantime may I suggest that until the Chair has had an opportunity to examine those precedents in detail we should proceed with the debate on second reading.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Are there any further comments?

**Mr. Comeau:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether Your Honour has had a chance to look at the remarks I made on this subject just before one o'clock, but on the basis of what the former President of the Privy Council has stated we could never introduce anything new in this House. All decisions would be based on previous rulings. The fact is that if this bill is passed it will make a mockery of the amendment moved by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) to Bill C-207. This bill again anticipates how the House of Commons will deal with the government organizational bill. The government will not accept any changes or amendments, specifically the amendment of the hon. member for St. John's East. I suggest that only Parliament can decide if an amendment to a bill is acceptable. I suggest that this bill is not properly drafted and that it should not be brought before the House at this time.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word or two on this matter. As Your Honour may be aware I supported the proposed amendment to the organization bill. However, I suggest that if there is any question of the propriety of this bill being before the House, that question should have been raised before the minister was allowed to speak on the bill. Apart from any other consideration that might be given, the fact that no objection was raised on this point at the commencement of the discussion, with the House being allowed to carry on with the debate, would in fact indicate that the bill is in order.

**Mr. McGrath:** Oh, come off it, Tom; that's terrible.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Speaker, I submit that the debate has been allowed to continue without prejudice to the dispo-