

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

good to him. It was not the Department of Fisheries that was responsible for his demise, so to speak. He should not take it out on the Department of Fisheries. When he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the minister placed great stock in his expertise, not because he is a distinguished tomato farmer but because of his great interest in the fishery. He resides in an area where the freshwater fish industry used to thrive before pollution caught up with it.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that our area is still a fishing area.

**An hon. Member:** What is the hon. member's point?

**Mr. Whelan:** I, along with the fishermen of my area, am more interested in getting on with this legislation than participating in a filibuster. I suggest that the name of the new department ought to be the "department of environmental control and carping".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member certainly is an expert at carping. I can well understand his interest in the subject. I know how concerned he is about what is happening to the Department of Fisheries. I know that deep in his heart he subscribes to the arguments which were advanced this afternoon and evening, arguments for retaining the word "fisheries" in the name of the new department. Hope springs eternal in the human breast; perhaps some day he will again be Parliamentary Secretary to the present Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. We hope so, because he did an outstanding job. We shall have more to say about that matter when we reach the portion of the bill dealing with the appointment of additional parliamentary secretaries. We are concerned about the way the hon. member was treated.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** We are concerned about the hon. member and his colleagues who served Canada, on the periphery of the government, with such distinction. They never even had a look in. Mr. Chairman, I have run short of bait; the last fish that rose took it all. I have no more fishing to do. This bill before the committee is very important to the part of Canada that I represent. It is important in general to the Atlantic provinces and important to the part of the country represented by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. I hope that before the minister gets to his feet the parliamentary secretary will live up to his responsibilities and make a useful contribution to this debate.

**Mr. Corbin:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I refer the hon. member for St. John's East to a speech I made at the opening of this debate. At that time I tried to cover the point that he has put before the committee this evening.

**Mr. McCleave:** Tell us again.

[Mr. McGrath.]

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, we have not heard those remarks lately so perhaps the hon. member would honour us by repeating them tonight. Some of us did not have the privilege of hearing the parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Corbin:** The hon. member was not in the House.

**Mr. McGrath:** We shall wait until he has had a chance to pick up his music, so that he can contribute something to this debate. After all, he has a responsibility. I think it is a shame that the distinguished Minister of Fisheries and Forestry has sold out to the glory boys in the cabinet, because that is what he did. I know that he is just as concerned as every hon. member who has participated in the debate on this amendment. I want the minister to know that we are prepared to hold up this part of the bill until hell freezes over.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Drury:** Question.

**The Chairman:** Is the committee ready for the question?

**Mr. Crouse:** Mr. Chairman, I had an opportunity this afternoon of participating in the debate. Quite frankly, in view of the well thought-out and reasoned amendment that has been moved by my colleague for St. John's East I was hoping that the minister, having eaten a good fish dinner, would realize that it is a sensible amendment to the bill and would come to the committee and say that he and his party are willing to accept the amendment. Unfortunately, he has not said that that is his intention. I feel that I must again impress upon him the need for including the word "fisheries" first and foremost in the title of the new department. I am, therefore, adding some more words to those that I placed on the record earlier.

After enjoying a fish dinner, I had occasion to read the *Ottawa Journal*. In it I found a most interesting article which more or less endorses some of the remarks I made this afternoon. At that time I pointed out to the committee and to the minister my concern about the loss of one of the most important parts of the fishing industry, namely, the swordfishery of Atlantic Canada.

**Mr. McCleave:** That has meant \$4 million down the drain.

**Mr. Crouse:** As my colleague has just said, that fishery was worth \$4 million to our fishermen in Atlantic Canada. This industry will not easily be replaced. It is not easy for the men concerned to find some new type of employment. They face a multitude of problems which I shall not burden the committee with at this time. The cost of changing their ships to enable them to undertake another form of fishing involves a large sum of money that is beyond their reach.

• (9:10 p.m.)

I know that discussions have been held with the provincial Minister of Fisheries and officials of the federal department. However, to date there has been no solution