

**HON. ALLISTER GROSART**

FELICITATIONS ON ELECTION AS PRESIDENT,  
CANADIAN BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

**Hon. Paul Martin:** Honourable senators, I am sure I express the views of all honourable senators when I note with satisfaction the election of Senator Grosart as President of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** He joins a distinguished company of former presidents, of whom Senator Roebuck and Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) have indeed been distinguished personalities in this organization.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn:** I should like to join the Leader of the Government in congratulating Senator Grosart. Not only does he follow Senator Roebuck and Senator Connolly (Ottawa West), but he is the first senator from the Opposition to occupy this very important position.

**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION BILL**

SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Leave having been given to proceed to Order No. 3:

**Hon. John J. Connolly** moved the second reading of Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-207 is described as an omnibus bill. It is not the type of legislation we have often in this Parliament, but it is a form of statute that is used frequently in provincial legislatures as a statute law amendment act. The bill has nine parts and 34 clauses. Seven statutes are amended in the body of the bill, some nine statutes are amended by Schedule B, and there are two new statutes enacted, namely, the Department of the Environment Act and the Ministries and Ministers of State Act.

The bill, once enacted, will come into force on proclamation. Clearly, because of the complexity of the measure, it is a committee bill and if the Senate gives it second reading I shall move that it be referred to an appropriate standing committee of the Senate, which I think would be the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Honourable senators, may I first of all deal with Parts I and II of this bill in a general way? Part I deals with the Department of the Environment, a new department. Part II deals with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Heretofore, national policies on resource development and national policies for the protection of the environment have been the responsibility of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Each one of these aspects of its work has been complementary to the other.

Development, of course, was the original priority for this department but soon the by-products of development

[Hon. Mr. Martin.]

began to raise somewhat ugly heads. There was pollution of land, air and water; there was the desolation of forests, the destruction of fisheries, and the ravaging of wasting assets. There was waste, disfiguration, and erosion of the earth. All of these have become problems, particularly in the last few years, requiring urgent crusading correcting steps to be taken.

Perhaps it is not inappropriate to say that, in a sense, the debate which has been going on in the country has been highly charged emotionally. I am not being critical when I say that. I state it simply to be a fact. In addition to the pollution created by the exploitation of our natural resources, another aspect of pollution has developed within our urban centres. Noise, sanitation requirements, the obsolescence of housing facilities, the need for infrastructure, and problems of traffic and parking have plagued our growing cities. All of these affect the living conditions of the people of the country.

Honourable senators, development, particularly in the field of our resource industries, remains a primary national goal. In the provinces, territories, and inland and offshore waters Canada is richly endowed with resources. The conservation and orderly development of resources are of great economic importance, and also of great social importance to our communities. The protection of the environment, which is threatened by the speed of industrial, scientific and technological change, is an important national problem.

The policy of development cannot proceed at the expense of the correction of pollution. They present separate problems. The policies are separate; the objectives and approaches are different. In the field of pollution control particularly we now know that we require highly trained experts with definite responsibilities. We also require the setting of priorities. In addition, we will be required to supply vast funds.

Certainly there is an overlap from development to pollution control. One can think of mining communities, in which, say, one of the great mineral resources of the country is being developed. In the development of that resource mountains of waste products are produced, and noxious fumes and smoke are emitted from the refineries and other processing plants. Sometimes, however, these great man-made mountains are not simply blots on the landscape because frequently, through technological advance, it is possible—and it has happened in our mining industry—for some of these great heaps of slag and waste to be mined for products that were not known to have any value at the time they were created. The sum and substance of the matter is that there must be co-ordination between these two ministries—the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources which has an interest primarily in development, and the Department of the Environment which is primarily interested in protecting the ecology.

There is another conflicting aspect to the general problem, and that is the jurisdictional situation in our federal state. The provinces, by and large, own the resources within their boundaries and control their development. The federal authority owns the resources in the territories in our north, and the offshore resources, and it is