

*Government Organization*

have to reserve answering at the moment what my personal opinion might be.

Clauses 34 to 46 inclusive agreed to.

Schedules A and B agreed to.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** We have been making wonderful progress and I hope we will continue to do so, but I would like to make a plea to the minister that he now consider the suggestion that this bill be divided into six separate bills. This omnibus bill is the worst legislative draftsmanship that I have ever seen, and I am sure that it is only presented in this form because the hon. member for Ottawa West, the house leader, has insisted that this is the way to get the bill passed by the house. I am not going to say anything more.

I would really like to make a plea to the other place that they divide the bill and send it back to us in the form of six separate bills. I am sure that all of us here would welcome this legislative tidiness, with enthusiasm.

**Mr. Churchill:** I want to support that suggestion. I think that is perhaps the best way in which it can be done, and I hope the other place will pay attention to what we say here. We pay attention to what they say on some occasions. That would be the easiest and neatest way of doing it. I support the division that has been suggested by the hon. member for Carleton.

**The Deputy Chairman:** We will now revert to clause 31.

**Mr. Benson:** As indicated this afternoon, I have prepared an amendment adopting the principle put forward by the hon. member for Kamloops. I would like to move that Bill C-178 be amended by adding the following to clause 31, immediately after clause 8(a) as set out on page 9 of the bill:

8B(1) In carrying out his responsibilities under Section 8A, the minister may formulate plans for the conservation, development and use of the resources specified in that section and for research with respect thereto, and with authority of the governor in council and in co-operation with other departments, branches and agencies of the government of Canada, provide for carrying out such plans.

(2) The minister may co-operate with the provinces and with municipalities in formulating and carrying out any plans under subsection (1).

(3) In carrying out his duties and functions under this section, the minister may consult with and inaugurate conferences of representatives of producers, industry, the universities, labour and provincial and municipal authorities.

I would simply like to point out that this includes all of the words put forward by the hon. member for Kamloops and supported by various members in the house, except for the introduction to the amendment.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** I think the hon. member for Kamloops should be congratulated upon his legislative paternity.

**Mr. Hamilton:** My remarks on this particular amendment will be to the point. One of the most powerful sections of the Northern Affairs and National Resources Act was section 7, which is now in essence fairly well repeated in the amendment that has been proposed by the government and was originally proposed by the member for Kamloops. On reading the proposed clause 31 of this particular bill several things struck me. It simply gives to the minister power to:

- (a) conduct applied and basic research programs and investigations and economic studies . . . and
- (b) study, keep under review and consider recommendation—

What this amendment does is to add a little more punch to the active section of the bill and allows the minister, in carrying out his responsibilities, to

—formulate plans for the conservation, development and use of the resources specified . . . in co-operation with other departments, branches and agencies of the federal government of Canada, provide for carrying out such plans.

This is an operative type of legislation.

In the second clause the minister may co-operate with the provinces and with municipalities in formulating and carrying out any plans under subsection (1). The point I want to make is that under section 7 of the Northern Affairs and National Resources Act we, as the federal government, were able to take the initiative on such far-reaching proposals as the Resources for Tomorrow conference held in 1961, to set up the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, and to propose the Saskatchewan-Nelson system. This proposal was originally made in 1958 and was finally accepted in 1965. It took seven years before federal initiative under section 7 of the Northern Affairs and National Resources Act was carried out. The fact is that the minister had the power and direction of the act to carry out this initiative. There are other things such as ARDA which are actually the type of thing that the minister can put before his colleagues in the government when there is a section in the act directing him to 'formulate plans for the conservation, development. . .' etc.