

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

formula disappeared. Now no arrangements are made for the federal government to contribute to any such project wherever it might be in Canada. As the minister stated on previous occasions, the cost will be negotiated. This means the federal government may or may not contribute toward the cost of a project. There is no set formula. This creates a very great hardship on the municipalities in respect of their conservation programs, because they do not know whether or not they will receive federal assistance.

I do not wish to take any more time of the House, so with that very brief introduction I shall put forward the following amendment. I have pleasure in moving this amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Howe):

That all the words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

Bill C-207 be not now read a third time but be referred back to the committee of the whole with an instruction to consider the advisability of amending the bill by inserting therein, next after clause 5 on page 2 thereof, the following:

"6. (1) With the approval of the Governor in Council the minister may enter into an agreement with any province providing for contributions by Canada in respect of the cost of projects for the construction of dams and other works for the conservation and control of sea coast and inland water resources and, in accordance with such agreement, pay contributions to the province out of money to be appropriated by Parliament for the purpose.

(2) The contributions paid by Canada in respect of an agreement with a province shall not exceed the amount paid by the province in respect of the project referred to in the agreement, and in no case shall the contributions paid by Canada exceed thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the cost of the project, as determined by the Governor in Council.

(3) No contributions shall be paid in respect of an agreement with a province unless all other agreements under this section with that province are being carried out in a manner acceptable to the minister.

(4) Where revenue-producing works are part of a project, the revenues that may be derived from such works shall be taken into consideration in determining the amount of the contribution by Canada.

(5) Contributions under this section shall be limited to projects that in the opinion of the Governor in Council are of a major character."

and, where the committee reports in favour of so amending the bill, then be it a further instruction to the committee to recommend that an humble address, in form prepared by the committee, be presented to His Excellency praying that he be pleased to recommend by message to this House an appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the purpose of the amendment so proposed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Hales), seconded by the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Howe). I must advise the House I have most serious reservations about this amendment. To my mind it clearly affects the financial initiative of the Crown. I am quite satisfied to listen to argument in this respect and will make a formal ruling after having heard argument, but I think it would take quite a bit of imagination to convince the Chair that the proposed amendment does not affect Her Majesty's prerogative in relation to financial matters.

[Mr. Hales.]

**Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in support of my colleague who proposed this amendment. For many years in this House I have been talking about conservation measures because in my riding there are some very important dams—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member wishes to make a contribution now, it should be related to the procedural aspect of the proposed amendment. There is nothing to prevent the hon. member, if he wishes to make the speech which he now proposes to make, making it after a ruling has been handed down by the Chair. The hon. member has not yet spoken at the third reading stage of the bill and he has the right to take the floor to make whatever representations he wishes in relation to the point made by the hon. member for Wellington even if the amendment is ruled out of order. However, I think any contribution at this time should be related strictly to the procedural aspect of the matter.

• (5:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Hales:** With regard to your comments, Mr. Speaker, I will leave the ruling entirely in your hands. I wish to say simply that the formula that was used in the previous act was within the jurisdiction of this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think hon. members would want me to go into the matter in considerable detail. I suggest to the hon. member who proposed this amendment, and to the House, that the amendment would clearly impose a call on the treasury. I do not think it is sufficient to say that whatever moneys are required to give effect to the proposal envisaged by this amendment would be voted by Parliament.

I believe that it is part of subclause 1 of the proposed amendment that the hon. member suggests that in accordance with the agreement, contributions to the province will be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose. It is not a sufficient answer to the procedural objection to say that any money required to give effect to the amendment would be voted in due course by Parliament. I must rule that the proposed amendment is not, therefore, acceptable from a procedural standpoint.

Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Speaker:** Those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Speaker:** In my opinion the yeas have it.

**Some hon. Members:** On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.