

Government Organization

planning in one half the area of Canada—the territories, the territorial waters and the continental shelf.

• (3:30 p.m.)

We therefore propose to move two amendments to rectify this situation. The first would be an amendment to give to the minister of energy, mines and resources responsibility for the administration of the resources underlying the territorial waters within the continental shelf in so far as these belong to Canada. This amendment and its results must be read to some extent, of course as subject to whatever ruling the Supreme Court of Canada may make with respect to jurisdiction in this field.

I pause here, Mr. Chairman, to say that in our view, as we have already expressed it, if the ruling should support the position taken by the government of Canada there must be immediately a discussion with the provinces with regard to a fair apportionment of the benefits of these resources.

The second amendment we will move is an amendment having as its purpose to make clear that the minister has responsibility for planning and co-ordinating programs for all of these resources. Both of these amendments refer to clause 29 of the bill. I say this because I should like to complete my remarks and then speak only briefly before moving the second amendment. We feel that there must be an amendment to make sure that this minister has responsibility for planning and co-ordinating the programs for resources. So far as national responsibility is concerned for co-ordinating these plans and programs, we feel there is at the moment a substantial gap which is not repaired by the inclusion in clause 31 of the bill of the proposed new section 8A of the Resources and Technical Surveys Act.

It should be borne in mind that although there is presently in the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources Act section 7 which clearly delineates the responsibility and authority of the minister for planning in this regard, that section is being repealed. In our view nothing adequate is provided to take its place.

When I move the second amendment I shall go into a little more detail as to why we feel the proposed section 8A of the Resources and Technical Surveys Act is not adequate to fill this gap. I mention the proposed amendment now because I want the committee to realize that the two amendments are complementary. The first one,

[Mr. Fulton.]

which I will move in a moment, is to make it clear that the minister has responsibility for administration of the resources of the territorial waters and continental shelf instead of that responsibility being bifurcated as at present.

The second amendment would give the minister of energy, mines and resources responsibility and authority for planning, so far as the federal government is concerned, in this area and of co-ordinating these plans between the federal and provincial authorities. On that basis, Mr. Chairman, I move:

That Section 29 of the Bill be amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of subclause (b) and adding thereto the following subclauses:

(d) the resources underlying the territorial waters of Canada; and

(e) the resources underlying the continental shelf in so far as the same are assigned to Canada by the international agreement respecting the continental shelf reached at Geneva in 1958.

The Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak to this amendment and say a few words in response to the points brought forward by the hon. member for Kamloops. He told us that a committee of his party had canvassed the situation and decided it was imperative that the resources of Canada, their organization and planning for their exploitation should be held in one department and not more than one. I am quite certain that does not represent the viewpoint of all the members of his own party. The hon. member referred to the regrettable gap that existed, and I think there is a gap in his knowledge of the particular conditions that exist in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. I am going to tell him now that no member of a government who had allocated to him the responsibility for the development of Northwest Territories and the Yukon could discharge that responsibility or have any hope of discharging it unless he had control of the resources of these particular areas.

The other day the Prime Minister referred to the minister charged with this responsibility. I am quite certain that these views I am now giving to the hon. member for Kamloops would be corroborated by the former ministers in his party who have had the responsibility that I now have. The first impression one gets when one goes to the Northwest Territories, and to a lesser extent the Yukon, is that there are no resources above the ground. There has been a long-held hope that there are great resources under the ground. I