

*Government Orders*

(4) Where parliament dissolves or prorogues earlier than fifteen sitting days after a proposed regulation is laid before both Houses of Parliament under subsection (1) and a motion has not been disposed of under subsection (2) in relation to the proposed regulation in both Houses of Parliament, the proposed regulation may not be made.

(5) For purposes of this section, "sitting day" means, in respect of either House of Parliament, a day on which that House sits".

He said: Mr. Speaker, I believe that support for this amendment standing in my name today is crucial to the functioning of Bill C-13. Although the provisions of the bill outline the framework for environmental assessment, the bill will only have meaning in content in the context of the proposed regulations.

Far more than most legislation, the teeth to federal environmental assessment lies in regulations yet to be approved or drafted. We have been told there are 12 to 15 sets of regulations, eventually to give substance and procedure to federal environmental assessment.

Exclusion lists outlining what projects and what types of projects will not be required to be subjected to review will be in the regulations. Procedures governing how public participation will occur will be left to regulation.

The comprehensive study lists will be left to regulation. Procedures for examining written evidence will be left to regulation. Public registries will be dealt with in the regulations. The workings of the follow-up programs will be left to regulations.

Let me give the House a sample of the crucial role regulations will play in determining the strengths and weaknesses of federal environmental assessment.

During the extensive committee work on this bill the Minister of the Environment had the following words to say, and I want to quote five paragraphs that have been recorded by *Hansard* in the minister's remarks. I quote:

"A year ago the committee studying the predecessor of Bill C-13 suspended its proceedings. One of the reasons was the committee's desire to better understand the bill by seeing some of the regulations that will be developed. There are some 15 sets of regulations which will accompany the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. These regulations define the scope of application, assessment procedures and separate procedures for special cases. Regulations will be established to cover areas as diverse as international developmental assistance to the

procedures which will govern environmental assessment on Indian lands which is in itself an important matter.

To fulfil my commitment to this committee, I choose to distribute copies of the two key draft regulations to you and to all who have participated in the process. When I say all, Mr. Chairman, I think it also includes the witnesses. This is unusual because the government usually reserves the prerogative to develop regulations outside the sphere of Parliament.

In this case we have legislation that is complex. It is one of the most important projects to be introduced, I think, in this Parliament. The regulations I have distributed, the comprehensive study list and the list of statutory and regulatory provisions are essential to making Bill C-13 operational. They are annotated to make them easier to understand. They are, as members will see, fairly complex".

I will just continue quoting the Minister:

"These draft regulations will provide the basis for a major consultative process outside the committee and they will provide us with a better understanding of how the bill will work. I should add that the consultations we are embarking upon are above and beyond the normal process of public notification that is included in the gazetting of regulations". One last quote from the minister: "Some committee members have asked to see other regulations that affect Bill C-13. I will not diminish the importance of the other regulations, but I ask you to understand that these regulations in many cases cannot be properly developed and constructed until we have finished our work on clause by clause. I can assure committee members that the development of all regulations will be the subject of consultations. I am sure the openness that has evolved in this committee will be reflected in the development of all regulations."

Mr. Bruchet from the Canadian Petroleum Association, speaking to the committee, added: "It is not necessarily the legislation, but the regulations that have the greatest impact on us.

Mr. Bill Andrews from the West Coast Environmental Law Association said to the committee: "The regulations themselves are important, if not the most important part of the bill.