

*Government Organization*

apt description of the state of the government administration as it will exist after this bill goes through.

Wet land, as I appreciate it, Mr. Chairman, is usually a bog, and if not drained it becomes a quicksand. I have a very acute suspicion that the future course of administration in this field, if this legislation goes through in its present form, will be bogged down in the wet land left by the Prime Minister's proposals and it will need more than the ordinary lifebuoy to drag it out of the quicksand in which it will founder.

I want to direct the committee's attention to the specific passages found at the bottom of the first column on page 5432 and the top of the second column where the Prime Minister is reported as follows:

To avoid confusion the minister of energy, mines and resources will handle the administrative work for the islands in Hudson bay, Hudson strait and Ungava bay, as well as for the underwater areas south of a certain line.

In other words, as a purely pragmatic administrative arrangement, the water areas have been placed with the land jurisdiction in the Arctic archipelago where the land is the most extensive and important element, and the land areas have been placed with the water in the Hudson Bay area where the water areas are very much larger than that of the islands. The dividing line, so far as the departments are concerned, will run substantially along the south coast of Southampton and Baffin Islands.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have one of the most important areas of jurisdiction in resource planning and development divided in half arbitrarily.

Then the Prime Minister, failing so utterly to appreciate the disastrous consequences of that division, went on to say:

This division is not reflected in the present bill because it has no legal consequences or significance.

What an abysmal failure, Mr. Chairman, to appreciate the very far reaching significance of what is proposed. The Prime Minister dismisses it in his next words:

It is simply a division of federal administrative responsibility between two federal ministers about which I thought I should inform the house.

I wish indeed that we could take it as casually as does the Prime Minister. It indicates a complete lack of awareness on the part of the government of any of the significance of this field of resource development, and with the tremendous potential in the northern areas and in the continental shelf it especially indicates a complete unawareness of the importance of co-ordinating policies in

this regard. Here we have the most confusing division with respect to administrative arrangements. Did you ever hear of such a half-baked idea of dividing administrative responsibility for areas having the same general problems between two different ministers?

Perhaps even more important, Mr. Chairman, than the chaos created by this administrative division is the fact that the bill is completely silent as to the responsibility for planning and co-ordination of programs for development. It is important that we bear in mind this distinction between responsibility for administration and carrying out plans and physical development on the one hand and the responsibility for making those plans and co-ordinating national policy on the other.

The bill having created chaos by an administrative division, Mr. Chairman, it further confuses the situation by being silent as to the responsibility for planning within the area of the continental shelf. I say that because in clause 17 the minister of Indian affairs and northern development is given responsibility for the territories and their resources and affairs; and while I may have some reservations about the effect of the wording, nevertheless in so far as administrative responsibility is concerned on the whole I think that is sound. As the Prime Minister has pointed out, the minister is in effect acting as trustee for future provinces. This, of course, is acceptable, and in that respect I am sure the territories will co-operate with the minister of energy, mines and resources with respect to the planning and co-ordination of programs in those areas.

However, Mr. Chairman, although the minister of northern development is given responsibility for the territories and their resources and affairs, nowhere is anyone given responsibility for the resources underlying the territorial waters of Canada or the resources of the continental shelf, that is to say, responsibility for the planning, programming and co-ordination of the development programs. In clause 29, the clause now under consideration, no mention is made of these areas or their resources.

Our view is that there must be the clearest definition of administrative responsibility and responsibility for planning and development of resource policy in these areas which, as I have said, constitute a large part of one of the most vital areas of Canadian development and interest. In our view, Mr. Chairman, you simply cannot leave out responsibility for