

**Mr. McGrath:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. In view of the fact that three very important standing committees are meeting this afternoon to examine important government bills which requires the presence of members of this House, I move that the committee do now adjourn. I wish to make a correction to put it in the proper phraseology. I move:

That the committee rise, report progress and request leave to sit again.

**The Chairman:** If the hon. member will let me have his motion in writing, I will be pleased to put it to the committee. Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

Motion (Mr. McGrath) negatived: Yeas, 27; nays, 47.

**The Chairman:** I declare the motion lost.

On clause 6—*Protection of environmental quality.*

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Chairman, when we concluded our last sitting on this particular bill, there was an amendment to clause 6 before the committee which would add the word "national" in front of "objectives or standards" at the top of page three. We feel that this amendment is vital, because if we are to get to the root of pollution problems in this country and cut out the pollution havens, we must have national standards from one end of Canada to the other.

On Friday we had a very lengthy debate on this issue. A number of members on this side of the chamber expressed their views on the need for national standards in Canada. This morning I heard a radio report that the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, who will be the minister of this new department, was urging some business people to get behind him in the fight to have tough standards. He talked in terms of national standards. He said that this was his objective and this was what the government wanted.

All we are asking is that the phrase "national standards" be included in the act. We are fed up with loose legislation which permits the government to say one thing, but when we get down to the nitty gritty of the legislation we find that it means something else. I suggest that this afternoon the minister should state his views on the type of standards we should have in Canada. I suggest to the minister that we must have the word "national" in this particular clause if we are going to have national standards in Canada.

● (3:20 p.m.)

There is no use saying you are in favour of national standards and then being afraid to put into the legislation exactly what is meant. If we can get some agreement on this issue, I am sure there will be little difficulty in having the clause passed early this afternoon. As I said before, we have had a good debate on this subject. I have expressed my views. This is the only way in which we shall prevent pollution havens from springing up in Canada. The minister has told us he wants this provision to apply nationally. What we are saying is: put it into the legislation and give a clear indication to the Canadian

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

public that this is our objective, and that this is what we intend to achieve. I trust the minister will see fit to use the term "national" in the first line so that we may have national objectives or standards in Canada related to pollution control. If not, I presume there will be additional debate on this clause.

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Chairman, I believe very firmly in national standards. I expect that the government will support me and that I shall have the backing of Parliament with respect to national standards. I agree that there must be national standards if we are to avoid the creation of pollution havens. New legislation we are introducing to deal specifically with air, water and soil in this country will make specific reference to national standards. The hon. member for Kootenay West may not have studied the clean air bill which received first reading in this House recently. It makes frequent references to national objectives and national standards; in other words, the language he would have us apply in the case of Bill C-207 establishing this department is used in our new clean air bill.

Earlier, hon. members argued that the new department of the environment should be concerned with environmental affairs which are in some measure the concern of other departments. I would argue that the department of the environment should be concerned not simply with national standards but also, on occasion, with the development and promotion of international standards. My main reason for suggesting that we leave out the word "national" here, but use it in specific pieces of legislation such as the clean air bill, is this: we must not prevent the department of the environment from working with other countries and endeavouring to develop international standards, hopefully projecting our own standards internationally, and that this should not be a job reserved for another department, for example, the Department of External Affairs, simply because the terms of reference of the department of the environment refers exclusively to national standards as opposed, say, to international standards.

I am, however, sensitive to the point which the hon. member is making. He is really asking: Do you intend to leave out the word "national" to permit pollution havens, endorse regional standards, endorse provincial standards and even give federal approval to local standards? This is not the intention. It is not my intention as the responsible minister. It has no parallel in the particular piece of legislation we are about to pass.

Please note that regulations under the Fisheries Act are national. They are not local or regional; certainly, they are not provincial. The Canada Shipping Act is national in its scope, so our standards will be national under that piece of legislation. National health and welfare legislation is national, and our clean air bill was based on this assumption. One might of course allow that it was in the national interest occasionally for the department of the environment at the federal level to encourage provincial governments to develop standards which are province-wide in areas within provincial jurisdiction, so as to promote the adoption of objectives and standards.