

Government Organization Act, 1970

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, such arrangements are already provided in the National Transportation Act.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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HEALTH**GLUE SNIFFING—REPRESENTATIONS TO MANUFACTURERS OF PRODUCTS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I hope Your Honour will allow me this extremely important point of order. It concerns the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is in the chamber at present and will be attending the ministerial conference. I have a statement signed by 11,500 people in Hamilton, including young people and adults, who are concerned about glue sniffing. I hope the minister will raise this matter at the conference. With a view to having his colleagues approach the manufacturers in order to ensure—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is obviously making a very important and interesting report to the minister. Perhaps he might consider the advisability of continuing the submission with the minister as he leaves the chamber. It is not a point of order. I assume the hon. member wanted the opportunity to make that representation, and I assume he is satisfied that he has done so. I cannot accept it as a point of order. Orders of the day.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a further point of order?

Mr. Alexander: I will not be long. I appreciate Your Honour's indulgence. Since the minister is going to become involved with drop-in centres and crisis centres throughout the country, will he give this matter prime consideration because of the interest shown by these 11,500 people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1970****PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION, MINISTRIES OF STATE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.**

The House resumed, from Tuesday, January 26, consideration of the motion of Mr. Drury (for the Prime Minister) that Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole.

[Mr. Skoberg.]

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak on Bill C-207, an act respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto. In my opinion, this bill illustrates more adequately than words can say the bureaucratic manner of doing things. This type of legislation can only create chaos and confusion in the minds of many Canadians.

This bill is somewhat like a sausage. It is composed of many things with no one, not even the government, knowing all that it contains. The House of Commons is being asked to accept one package which establishes a department of the environment, creates ministries of state, increases the number of parliamentary secretaries, gives the Postmaster General a new status, establishes new retirement regulations for public servants and special pension privileges for deputy heads. Is it any wonder that the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) raised a question about the validity of this bill?

There are some parts of this bill with which I can agree in principle, such as Part I which proposes the creation of the department of the environment. However, in my opinion, this method of presenting important legislative measures deters consideration in depth of the impact of these proposals on the Canadian nation. My principle concern is for the Department of Fisheries and Forestry. It is being swallowed up by this new giant, the department of the environment, which, according to the press, will have an annual budget of approximately \$200 million and a staff estimated to be between 11,000 and 13,000 persons.

As I said a moment ago, I welcome the establishment of the department of the environment. However, I believe its terms of reference should be confined to antipollution measures. Environmental concerns are no longer the private preserve of the bird watchers. The same bell tolls for all.

The manner in which the abuse of water affects our Canadian fisheries resources, both inland and on both sea coasts, is and must be of primary concern to the federal Department of Fisheries and Forestry. In many ways, fish may be our first line of defence as pollution effects on fish have time and again warned of and dramatized the extent to which we are poisoning our environment. According to recent reports, mercury is still finding its way into our fishing areas. It is affecting Japanese canned tuna. Mercury in fish is not new. Researchers at the New York state department of environmental conservation have found levels of mercury in preserved fish caught 40 years ago that are more than twice as high as levels that would now bar those fish from the market.

It is my understanding that a recent landing of 15,500 pounds of swordfish by a Nova Scotia swordfisherman was examined. It was found to contain mercury in excess of the amount fit for human consumption. This poses very serious questions. What are these swordfishermen to do? There are at least 48 boats of varying length operating in the swordfishing industry between Sambro and Yarmouth, to say nothing of the ships operating out of