

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

ate what the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants said about the present head of the Department of Fisheries. But, like him, I feel there may be a little trading on his fine reputation in order to bring about this change.

My interest in this matter is probably not as intense as that of some hon. members from the Maritimes and from the east and west coasts. But I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that there are many people from the lower Great Lakes who are affected by pollution as it affects the fishing industry. I deplore the efforts which are being made to downgrade this industry. The problem in the lower Great Lakes is common to both these departments. It is extremely necessary that we have a department to look after the environment and to clean up pollution, because pollution has already depressed the fishing industry. The situation of the fishing industry in the lower Great Lakes is desperate. This is all the more reason why the fishermen should have a department to which they can turn.

The situation in that area is fresh in my mind because only last night I was speaking by telephone to a fisherman from the central Erie area. He is extremely upset and I will tell the committee why. A scientist, an academic, an egghead—and we need them—suggested to this fisherman that it would be better for him if the government gave him some money and moved him. He suggested that they move this man to an inland lake where he could continue to fish. What the heck did he think the man was fishing from—a rowboat or a canoe? How in the name of Harry is a 75-foot tug to be moved to an inland lake?

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McCutcheon:** If you would like to make a speech, get to your feet.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Yes, that hon. member is always yacking.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** That is right. The point is that the Minister of Fisheries is a dedicated individual and we feel sure he will do an excellent job. However, as the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants stated, the present minister will not always hold that position and the next minister may have a different approach to the matter. The question is whether this is the first step in the fishing industry being phased out. Lord, I hope not! In 1968 there were \$6,717,000 worth of fish marketed out of the province of Ontario. This is no small amount. As I see it, when the department is downgraded the fishing industry is indirectly also downgraded.

● (8:50 p.m.)

Efforts must be made to clean up pollution, otherwise we will not be able to save the industry. Therefore, I place a very high value on environmental clean-up but I place an equally high value on steps to improve the fishing industry. These aims are complementary; they should be given the emphasis that I have mentioned. With the downgrading of the fishing industry and the

[Mr. McCutcheon.]

fisheries department I fear that we may be blinded by the environmental aspect. Environmental clean-up constitutes a tremendous problem, but we may miss placing sufficient emphasis on the maintenance and improvement of the fishing industry. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that the committee will accept this most reasonable amendment.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, under this clause of the bill the committee is being asked to give the minister additional powers in the new department and to co-ordinate some of the responsibilities presently held by other departments of government. The duties, powers and functions of the minister of the environment will extend to and include all matters over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction. These include:

- (a) sea coast and inland fisheries;
- (b) renewable resources, including
  - (i) the forest resources of Canada,
  - (ii) migratory birds, and
  - (iii) other non domestic flora and fauna;
- (c) water;
- (d) meteorologist;
- (e) the protection and enhancement of the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality;
- (f) technical surveys within the meaning of the Resources and Technical Surveys Act relating to any matter described in paragraphs (a) to (e); and
- (g) notwithstanding paragraph (f) of section 5 of the Department of National Health and Welfare Act—

Mr. Chairman, I point this out to indicate additional grounds for our concern. In addition to all these new responsibilities which the minister will acquire if Parliament passes this bill, he will have responsibility for matters which now come within his jurisdiction as Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. These are substantial. I think it is worth while to spell them out because they are very important. The minister now has, and will continue to have, responsibility for the following:

Coastal Fisheries Protection Act  
 Fish Inspection Act  
 Fisheries Act  
 Fisheries Development Act  
 Fisheries Prices Support Act  
 Fisheries Research Board Act  
 Great Lakes Fisheries Convention Act  
 Northern Pacific Fisheries Convention Act  
 Northern Pacific Halibut Fishery Convention Act  
 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act  
 Pacific Fur Seals Convention Act  
 Pacific Salmon Fisheries Convention Act  
 Whaling Convention Act

In my view, each of these statutes carries with it tremendous responsibilities which are significant and numerous enough to warrant retention of the name "fisheries" in the new department. I am sure the minister is just as concerned as we are. He is not concerned about the present administration because he knows he will continue to devote his attention to the fisheries. However,