

Science Council of Canada

federal-provincial body with a secretariat and does operate in a field in which what is being done in research is quite important. I am glad to know that the minister does envisage that there will develop at least some form of liaison, even though it is an informal one, between the Council of Resource Ministers and the Science Council. I would agree with him; I am not suggesting that it is something we could or should put in the legislation.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 11 as amended carry?

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 12 agreed to.

On clause 13—*Initiation of studies, etc.*

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, I am having a little difficulty reconciling clause 13 with the amendment to clause 11 introduced by the minister. That amendment changed the word "in" to "for" and that portion of the clause now reads:

—long term planning for scientific and technological research and development in Canada;

I understand the amendment was made on the basis that the council does not carry on its own research but provides that it be done. Clause 13 says:

The council shall on its own initiative, or if directed to do so by the minister, conduct such studies, inquiries and other undertakings—

I am having a little difficulty, as I say, reconciling those two statements, and perhaps the minister would enlighten us.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I think probably clause 13 refers rather to responsibility than actual operation. The intention here is that the council will assume responsibility for work that is done, rather than doing it itself. It will commission it, have it done through the science secretariat of the Privy Council office, endorse it as in effect being its own and carrying its judgment, and consequently qualifying under clause 13. As I indicated earlier, it will not itself have a staff or investigative agencies.

Mr. Patterson: In my view, Mr. Chairman, this wording is rather ambiguous. I wonder whether there should not be some change in the wording of clause 13 and instead of "conduct such studies" the wording should not be "provide for such studies", or something like that, in order to clarify the matter. Is the minister satisfied that the clause is clear enough so that its meaning is obvious?

[Mr. Barnett.]

Mr. Drury: I think the meaning is sufficiently obvious. Unless one uses a verb such as "conduct", it is difficult to attribute responsibility. "Provide for" means clearly that this will be somebody else's work, but if the council is not provided with any funds to conduct any studies, clearly those studies that bear its endorsement have been carried out by someone else but are the responsibility, and consequently the judgment, of the council.

Clause 13 agreed to.

On clause 14—*Council may utilize services of employees of other departments.*

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I think it may be rather more appropriate to government organization if clause 14 (1) made provision for the designation of other government departments by the governor in council rather than by the minister.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Hear, hear.

Mr. Drury: I would accordingly suggest, seconded—by Mr. Bell (Carleton)?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Yes.

Mr. Drury:—or by the Minister of Fisheries that in place of the last three words, "Minister may designate" there be substituted therefor the words "the governor in council may designate for the purpose." I think you already have that amendment in your hands, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Robichaud: I move:

That clause 14 be amended by deleting in the first paragraph the words "the minister may designate" and substituting "governor in council may designate for the purpose."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

On clause 15—*Not agent of Her Majesty.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would be good enough to explain the significance of clause 15 and the disclaimer in that clause of the council's being an agent of Her Majesty. I am quite interested in the contrast in this wording compared with, for example, the act setting up the Economic Council of Canada, where specifically in clause 17 it is said:

The Council is for all purposes of this act an agent of Her Majesty.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Why is it that in the Economic Council of Canada legislation there is such an adoption