

Government Organization Act, 1970

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I think the answer is that it is a matter of drafting convenience in that clause 28 of the current bill provides a substantive new section in the Salaries Act, which did not exist before, whereas the schedules are amendments that do not represent substantial changes but represent changes in nomenclature, and so forth.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 29: *Appropriations based on 1970-71 Estimates.*

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I indicated last time we were considering this bill that, by reason of the amendments made to the interim supply bill, it would be necessary to amend clause 29 of this bill and make provision for supply during the interim period until June 30 for the ministry of fisheries and forestry. After that, supply would have to be provided, as this bill intends, for the new department of the environment. Consequently, I move:

• (4:40 p.m.)

That Bill C-207 be amended by striking out lines 20 and 21 on page 12 and substituting the following:
"31st day of March, 1972, based on Estimates 1971-72 to defray the expenses of the"

The new clause, as amended, will read:

The provisions made by any Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, based on Estimates 1971-72 to defray the expenses of the public service of Canada within any department, branch or other part of the public service—

As I indicated, the purpose of this will be to make provisional supply consequent with the new department of the environment as now contained in the main estimates as amended by the interim supply bill.

Mr. McGrath: I have some general remarks to make. This is probably the appropriate time to make them. Two of my colleagues also want to make some remarks on this general subject. I wonder if it might be more expeditious to do so when we revert to Part I, clause 2. I make that suggestion. I hope that when we revert to that, I will be given an opportunity to say a few words.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The Chair is in agreement with the hon. member that he make his remarks when we revert to clause 2.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 29, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 30 to 33 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 34—*Commencement*

Mr. McCleave: May I ask the minister a question? When is it proposed to proclaim this measure?

Mr. Drury: In the interest of efficient administration, Mr. Chairman, the answer is as quickly as possible. For some time the government has been arguing that bringing this act into operation is a matter of considerable

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

public importance. We want to do it as rapidly as possible. After consideration of this bill by the Senate, which I hope will not be long, it will be proclaimed as soon as possible.

In connection with the proclamation provided in clause 34, another item mentioned related to the effective date of discharge from the public service in order to enable public servants to qualify for early retirement, particularly with the changes in organization contemplated at defence forces bases in Manitoba. We wish to have clause 27 of the bill given effect from the end of the fiscal year rather than from some date in May or June of the current year. In order to give effect to that desire, and I think this arrangement has the support of the House, I move:

That Bill C-207 be amended by striking out lines 14 and 15 on page 15 and substituting the following:

Commence- "34. (1) This Act, except section 27, shall come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation.
Idem (2) Section 27 shall come into force on April 30, 1971."

If this amendment is passed along with the bill, Mr. Chairman, it will be possible for the employment of those at these bases which I have in mind to terminate in accordance with the plan shortly after the end of the fiscal year and for them to qualify for the early retirement provisions which they otherwise would not be able to do.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few comments at this stage. The formula used by the minister is acceptable. It is certainly much more acceptable than one used on another occasion when we gave permission to have parts of a bill proclaimed and then found that little snippets were taken out of the breathalyser law and other snippets were left. In this instance, the minister has stated his case frankly. For that he is to be thanked.

The minister made this request of some of us before. We are not surprised that it is now coming forth. Generally speaking, I think it can be accepted by the official opposition. At some stage before we vote on this amendment, will the minister indicate whether any other classes of people will or could be affected by what we are being asked to do with regard to clause 27.

Mr. Drury: There is no specific class or group of people in mind other than those I have mentioned. When the bill was originally drafted, a plan to close some armed forces bases in the Prairie provinces was approved on the understanding that the people who are going to be released according to the timetable of this plan would be able to avail themselves of the provisions of these amendments. Obviously, there are other persons in the government who, if the amendments were not made, would have left the government service between March 31, 1971 and the date of proclamation, whenever that is in the future, who would not be able to take advantage of these early retirement provisions. I do not know who they might be but now they will be able to retire as a consequence of what has been specifically made necessary