

*Government Organization*

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he would explain his answer of a minute ago, when he was thanking heaven there was not yet a strike in Air Canada. Is he anticipating a strike?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am very hopeful that there will not be a strike.

**BANKRUPTCY****REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF FRAUDULENT BANKRUPTCIES BY ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received yesterday or today a communication from the federation of Quebec businessmen's associations asking for a royal commission on bankruptcies?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest the hon. member is not in order in asking whether a telegram or message has been received.

**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION****PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEPARTMENTS**

The house resumed, from Monday, May 30, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-178, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto—Mr. Pearson—Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 29—*duties, powers and functions of the minister.*

**The Chairman:** When the committee rose on Monday, clause 29 of the bill was being considered.

● (3:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Chairman, at this stage of our consideration of the bill we are dealing with a department which will have as its responsibility perhaps the most vital area for Canada's future, namely, the responsibility on the one hand for developing and co-ordinating policies, plans and programs with respect to Canada's resources in co-operation with the provinces, plans for the development of the resources of the territories, the territorial waters and the continental shelf under the jurisdiction of the federal government on the other hand, and bringing those plans into a

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

co-ordinated whole, thereby giving to this country one of the surest and most important springboards or foundations to ensure the maintenance of our independence, our future prosperity, our growth and survival as a nation, as well as the ability to play an ever more important part in the community of nations.

It is in this context that I want to discuss the deficiencies of the plans and of the organization proposed for this department. I regret that the minister who is designated as minister of this department is not in the committee at the moment because it would be interesting, and I believe important, to have his explanations at this stage and his answers with respect to our criticisms, not of the expressed intent of the legislation but rather of the ways in which it falls short of implementing that intent.

Last evening, Mr. Chairman, I had just finished pointing out the inconsistencies between policy in connection with this new department as stated by the Prime Minister on various occasions and the implementation of that policy as reflected in the right hon. gentleman's speech on second reading.

Let me review the situation very briefly, Mr. Chairman. The object on the government side, as stated by the Prime Minister and others, is to consolidate the responsibility for the development of resources policy. Unfortunately the accomplishment so far as this bill is concerned is a complete division of responsibility in that field between two departments. Indeed, in my submission, never was a policy so good in principle so completely defeated in detail by the results of legislation introduced ostensibly to implement that policy.

Last night I had directed attention to the statement of the Prime Minister which is reported at page 5431 of *Hansard* as to the roles and responsibilities of the two ministers concerned, the minister of Indian affairs and northern development on the one hand and the minister of energy, mines and resources on the other, and I had pointed out the areas of potential conflict.

This process of outlining conflict and division was continued in the speech of the Prime Minister in the tortured explanation he gave, as reported on the balance of page 5431 and down through the first column of page 5432 of *Hansard*, including his very inept use of the words "dry land" and "wet land". Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps his use of those words is not so inept after all; they may be a pretty