

Government Organization Act, 1970

I hope the minister will give serious consideration to the formula which I think is so essential in the areas of water control and water management. Probably each should be treated differently, but if there were some base it would give encouragement to those people who have spent years studying water basins. They should be assisted in every way possible by every level of government. If the department had a base formula, it would be of tremendous assistance to them in trying to carry out the programs on which they have been working for so many years.

The Chairman: Shall clause 5 carry? The hon. President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Drury: Before it carries, Mr. Chairman, my attention has been drawn to the fact that in line 17, page 2, the French translation does not reflect exactly what is meant.

An hon. Member: It never did.

Mr. Drury: The French version—perhaps I should not say English translation or French translation—

Mr. Paproski: You will screw it up anyway.

An hon. Member: What was that word you used?

Mr. Paproski: It is better than the one the Prime Minister used.

Mr. Drury: The English version reads “non-domestic flora and fauna”. “Non-domestic” and the term in French “non indigènes” are not quite the same. I move that we change the French version to substitute for the words “non indigènes” the word “sauvages”. It would now read: “la flore et la faune sauvages”.

Mr. Baldwin: Does that include the cabinet?

The Chairman: The committee has heard the amendment to clause 5. Shall the amendment carry?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Clause 5 (as amended) agreed to.

The Chairman: The committee will now consider clause 2.

On clause 2—*Short title.*

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to clause 2 which relates to what will happen to the Department of Fisheries and Forestry and the special responsibility that the minister has in relation thereto. Since the present minister took over the responsibilities that he now has, I think it is only fair to say that the Department of Fisheries and Forestry has come into its own.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. McGrath: I do not mean to diminish in any way the importance of this department in the past because, indeed, it is one of the great federal departments of the government of Canada. It is one of the oldest, if not the

[Mr. Howe.]

oldest, departments. Prior to the administration of the present minister, the department always seemed to emerge in the scheme of things as the poor, black sheep, if you like, of the government. It never received the recognition it deserved from either the minister or the House. The minister has done a great deal to change all that.

Mr. Laing: Which minister is the hon. member talking about?

Mr. McGrath: I am talking about the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry and about clause 2 of the bill.

Mr. Laing: I thought that the Department of Public Works had the record for being the best department.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I will extend the same accolade to the Minister of Public Works when he accepts some of the many requests which are pending from my constituency.

An hon. Member: Touché.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, the minister is a good Minister of Public Works.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Drury: Flattery will get you nowhere.

Mr. McGrath: It is true that down through the years the department of fisheries did not receive the recognition it deserved from the government of Canada or the Parliament of Canada. The present Minister of Fisheries and Forestry took over that department and brought to it new vitality. Of course, he was aided and abetted by Members of Parliament from the Atlantic provinces, not the least among whom are, I suggest with great humility, the Members of Parliament from Newfoundland. Through the coincidence of events involving the election of 1968 and the appointment of the minister to head that department, the department of fisheries finally came into its own. The department was given a new lease on life and began to involve new and meaningful policies which gave new hope to this long down-trodden and sometimes forgotten industry. Today that industry in eastern Canada is in a relatively healthy state; it is certainly healthier than it has been for a long time. That is a direct result of policies which have emerged from the application of the expertise and knowledge of the minister, advice that has been tendered in this House and consultations which the minister has engaged in with individual members and with the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: In the new scheme of things, the new department is to have a sexy name and the minister is to have sexy responsibilities. This, after all, is a very attractive proposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: Everybody is talking about pollution. It is very much in vogue; it is very much the “in” thing.