

*Government Organization*

the minister of resources should assume this total responsibility or the minister of northern development should do so.

As a former minister of northern affairs and in view of the rapid withering away of the department of northern affairs I would say, speaking sentimentally, that it might be placed under the jurisdiction of the department of northern development. If the minister cannot accept our amendment, I hope sincerely that in the interest of peace, order, good government and good common sense he will seize the initiative and resolve this difficulty by placing it under his own moral responsibility.

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Chairman, before the vote is taken I should like say two or three words. I listened with considerable interest to the hon. member for Kamloops. The word he used most frequently was "gap"; he referred to the yawning gap between several departments which was developing because of this legislation. He thought this applied particularly in areas of policy. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle got up and said that this responsibility should be in either one department or another. In other words, his primary concern seemed to be with overlapping in the future administration of the government's policies with regard to matters such as water and energy. One speaker from the opposition side is concerned about gaps and another about overlapping. I suggest there is some inconsistency in this regard.

In respect of fundamental matters like water and energy, which nowadays are becoming of increasing interest in this country, there have been various government departments involved. Necessarily there is some degree of overlapping and some degree of co-ordination but this legislation is designed to minimize the degree of overlapping. More of the responsibilities in connection with water and energy have been put together in one new department, the department of energy, mines and resources.

• (4:10 p.m.)

The amendment refers to this matter. The hon. member for Kamloops is concerned primarily with the fact, and this is substantially an interpretation of his words, that the new minister of energy, mines and resources will not have authority over planning, programming and co-ordinating of policies with regard to energy. I respectfully submit that

the clause as it now stands does give the minister that power. The clause reads:

The duties, powers and functions of the minister of energy, mines and resources extend to and include all matters over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction—

I wish to emphasize the words, "all matters over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction." Surely "all matters" includes planning, programming and co-ordinating. Surely this is what policy-making is all about, and I trust that policy-making is still one of the principal functions of the government of Canada. Therefore I would suggest that the amendment to this extent is redundant and unnecessary.

I listened with some interest to the hon member for Okanagan-Revelstoke who, coming from the province of British Columbia and being a member of the Social Credit faith, believes that the offshore mineral resources, at least on the west coast, should come under the jurisdiction of the province as distinct from the jurisdiction of the nation. I happen to hold the contrary view. However, I suggest that wherever the jurisdiction for these resources resides, and I believe it resides with the nation, this subject clearly comes within the terms and wording of the present clause. Therefore the clause does not have to be amended.

Unlike several hon. members on the opposition side who really skated around the issue of whether off-shore mineral rights belong to the province or the nation, I categorically state that I believe these are matters which this clause now covers in its present form. They are certainly covered by subclause (a), energy, mines and minerals.

Reference was made to the present minister and some recent statements he has made. I know that the present incumbent, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys is a very intelligent and capable man who has come to understand effectively and quickly not only the administrative details but also the policy implications and responsibilities of his new department. I am convinced that he and certainly this government intend to strike clearcut stances and declare clearcut policies in respect of resources. I think this is vital and important, and I suggest to hon. members that to add more lines to clause 29 would merely proliferate the words and perhaps undermine the power of the federal government. I suggest we should all vote **against it.**