

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

- An Act to amend the Customs Act.
- An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act.
- An Act to regulate interprovincial and export trade in freshwater fish and to establish the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.
- An Act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.
- An Act to amend the Veterans Land Act.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest the house return to the committee of the whole?

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY, AND OTHER NEW DEPARTMENTS

The house resumed consideration in committee of the whole of Bill C-173, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters relating or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Bécharé in the chair.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Six o'clock.

[Translation]

The Deputy Chairman: It being six o'clock I now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[English]

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Chairman: Order. House in committee of the whole on Bill C-173. The committee will turn to part I, fisheries and forestry. Shall clause 2 carry?

On Clause 2—*Department established.*

Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, Bill C-173, an act respecting the organization of the government of Canada, goes a long way toward bringing the administration of the nation's non-renewable resources together in a single department. Our fisheries are renewable and our forests are renewable. Both are very important national resources. Bringing them together in a single department makes sense,

Government Organization

because good management in both cases involves the same principles of conservation. It makes sense also because these two great resources are often found in close proximity one to another.

Physically and economically speaking, our fisheries and forest resources have a great deal in common. Often they are found in, or are dependent upon, the same great watersheds. Usually a healthy forest resource means a healthy fishery. Often the wise harvesting of our trees serves to perpetuate our fishery both from a commercial and a recreational point of view.

There are conflicts, of course. The thoughtless spraying of trees to control insects and disease damages our fisheries. Also, a "cut and get out" philosophy in our forests can lay waste, not only a great deal of future forest land but also many miles of our best fishing rivers and streams. So, we have to be careful. We have to manage the total resource, the forests and the fishery, with the same general idea in mind, that of maximizing the total benefit to the Canadian people as a whole.

In talking about our fisheries and forests, I am tempted to add wildlife. I have noted, for example, that the Glassco royal commission on government organization recommended that wildlife be included along with the fisheries. If wildlife were included along with fisheries and forestry, we would have a complete package. We would bring most of the nation's renewable resources under a single administration, under a single government department in Ottawa. We would have, in a single department, all of the "wild" living resources whose reproduction and growth have a great deal to do not only with the improvement of our general environment in Canada but with the preservation of our great outdoors and the long run health of Canadians.

Jurisdictionally, we have an interesting contrast here. Fisheries, under our constitution, is totally a federal matter. Forestry, meanwhile, is largely provincial. Fish, collectively, are a national resource. Trees, in the main, come under provincial jurisdiction. Hence the name of the new department, Fisheries and Forestry.

The word "fisheries" comes first because we in this parliament, our national parliamentary institution, have all the powers necessary in order to not only carry out research on fish as a resource but also to conserve, manage, process, and market, fish and fish products.