

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

ment which will oversee all environmental problems throughout the nation.

I indicated at the beginning of my remarks that there were a number of major factors missing from the proposed new department of the environment. I have mentioned several, but one of the most important relates to finance. We need a national pollution control fund, call it what you like, and this is another of the keys to the solution of many of the most acute and persistent pollution problems which face us today. The federal government cannot really launch an effective campaign against environmental problems unless it is prepared to put up huge sums of money to launch an all-out attack against these problems.

It must be crystal clear to everyone in Canada who knows anything about pollution that one of the big problems holding back a number of solutions is that problem associated with money. Perhaps the best example can be found in the field of sewage treatment. Municipalities from one end of Canada to the other are anxious to deal with the sewage problems which face them. The fact is that the tax base of municipalities and provinces is too restricted for them to carry out any crash program on sewage treatment, although some funds are being made available by the federal government through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. However, the amounts available for sewage treatment are insufficient to meet the problem.

In this respect, target dates should be set for the completion of secondary and tertiary plants and, most of all, money must be available at low interest rates to the municipalities so they can get the job done. There is much the federal and provincial governments can do to provide low cost loans. The failure of the federal government to take effective action along this line is an indication that it is derelict in its duty in so far as this aspect of pollution clean-up is concerned. There should be a right, by law, for every Canadian to live in clean environment, to breathe clean air and to use clean water. It should be a crime to pollute and our legislation, if necessary, should be enforced by an amendment to the Criminal Code making pollution a crime.

I have not much time left but there are one or two points I should like to summarize quickly, if I may. I feel that much wider use of advisory boards should be made by the government in so far as environmental problems are concerned. I realize that the minister is interested in this and has indicated that he intends to move in this direction. I hope he moves quickly because we have little time to lose.

Another reason I feel the new act is not going to be effective can be found by a consideration of schedule A. We find there are a number of very important pieces of legislation missing from this schedule. I have in mind legislation which the minister and his department will not be in a position to oversee. One of these pieces of legislation is the Arctic Water Pollution Prevention Act. Why should this department not have jurisdiction in respect of that Act? We passed legislation in an attempt to stop oil pollution of Arctic waters, and this Act should certainly be included in schedule A.

[Mr. Harding.]

What about the National Parks Act? If there is any area which is part of the over-all environmental picture it is our national parks. Why is this Act not included in the new department along with some of the other functions taken from the various departments? The national parks represent one of the keys to our environmental protection, yet we find reference to this area missing from this list of legislation.

Let us consider the Navigable Waters Act. Why is this not one of the items which falls within the jurisdiction of the minister of this department? Because of this exclusion Mr. Bennett was able to build the Peace dam without having to come to the federal government. A crown corporation in the name of the province or in the name of the federal government is not covered by the terms of the Navigable Waters Act. One of the first things we should do is make sure that the legislation we now have is amended in order to give this new department a chance to call for surveys when provincial governments, hydro companies or crown corporations want to dam a river.

• (5:20 p.m.)

Other pieces of legislation are missing. This is what makes me feel we will not get the effective control of our over-all environmental problems that we should get. Let us go up to the Arctic for a moment. Here we have our northern area, 40 per cent of Canada's total land mass, under the control of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The emphasis there is on economic development. That department has a Deputy Minister who has been concentrating on economic development, and doing a good job, but who has totally ignored for many years any of the environmental problems which have been brought to the attention of the department. To-day, the same man is to be in charge of the economic development and environmental problems in the Arctic. As someone said, it is like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop, because environmental problems will largely be ignored. These are the things which worry me.

I believe a thorough examination of the legislation should be made in an effort to have more controls in the department. If there is not a department with over-all authority to co-ordinate the services, set up standards, provide funds and set out priorities in respect of pollution problems in Canada, we will not have the effective controlling measure we should have. I thank the House, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to make these remarks. I can assure the minister that during the committee of the whole stage we intend to question very closely many of the policies and programs which have been outlined and which we trust may be amended in the proposed legislation.

**Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo):** Mr. Speaker, a number of members on the other side of the House have expressed some reservations about the particular bill which is before us. I should like to say I have a reservation but it really does not have anything to do with this particular bill. I think this is a good bill. It encompasses a