

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

er this duplication of responsibility is intentional and, if so, why. Perhaps the inclusion of these technical surveys in the field of weather as a responsibility of the two departments is only an error in the drafting of this legislation.

In his speech yesterday the minister quite rightly stated that pollution knows no national or even international boundaries. Indeed, it is a worldwide problem. In dealing with the provinces and national governments, no doubt constitutional and international law problems will arise. When Parliament passed the Arctic waters pollution prevention bill it was criticized in some quarters as being contrary to the principles of international law. Canadians in the majority disagree with that opinion. I believe members of this House also feel that the overwhelming weight of world opinion favours the decision we took when we passed that bill.

However stringent the legislation we pass in Parliament in matters of pollution abatement, the regulation, supervision and enforcement powers must be carried out faithfully. In this matter, tact and diplomacy will be very necessary because we will need provincial and international co-operation. If finding a basis for co-operation between various levels of government is sometimes difficult in our country, it is all the more difficult to achieve among sovereign states. We can expect to encounter difficulties in persuading those nations which are struggling to achieve industrialization that they should not repeat the mistakes of the prosperous nations, but should from the start build into the cost of their industrial processes the necessary expense for protection of the environment.

Even among nations which do not have a great disparity of economic development, agreement sometimes is difficult to achieve. The record of co-operation between Canada and the U.S.A. has not always been excellent. This has been our experience even though the International Joint Commission has carried out very good investigations. The U.S.A. seems to be reluctant to make a firm decision concerning the banning of phosphates from detergents, even though independent expert evidence has established that our Great Lakes water system will not be cleaned up unless the U.S.A. makes the decision to ban phosphates from detergents. Clause 5 (g) establishing the department of the environment empowers it to enforce the regulations of the International Joint Commission. I believe the way to achieve real progress in respect of cleaning up our international boundary waters and keeping our air clean is by strengthening the International Joint Commission so that co-operation by the U.S.A. would be ensured.

I am curious to know how the present ad hoc arrangement between the Department of External Affairs and the U.S.A. anti-pollution authorities is making out. No doubt someone will suggest that Canada-U.S.A. co-operation in these matters would involve the surrender of some sovereignty. This, however, would be a great example to the international community. International co-operation is necessary in order to preserve the environment. It must be recognized that the preservation of the environment is in the national interest and indeed is some-

[Mr. Haidasz.]

times above national interest. We are proud that Canadians are taking a leading and active interest in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Environment which will take place in Stockholm in 1972. This conference must be successful in marshalling world co-operation and the adoption as soon as possible of programs and standards to launch a world assault on those forces which are challenging our environment.

We also welcome in Bill C-207 provision for the establishment of ministries of state. This will enable the government to give greater status to the minister responsible for federal policies in respect of housing. It is hoped the studies now being carried out by the present minister, along with the powers which shall be given to him by this bill, will be of assistance to him in meeting the challenge of better housing for Canadians and especially in solving the problems of urban sprawl, redevelopment and urban transportation.

This bill will also give the government an opportunity to appoint a minister in charge of federal science policy. There is a great need in Canada for co-ordination of research activities and scientific pursuits in the various federal government departments and agencies. I hope the government will give the earliest possible serious consideration to the establishment of a ministry of science.

It is also my hope that the part of the bill dealing with the Postmaster General will provide that minister with the status and authority he requires in order to improve postal delivery in Canada. I have received many complaints from storekeepers who sell newspapers, and also from subscribers and editors of ethnic weeklies, that the delivery of these newspapers is late and very irregular. I appeal to the Postmaster General to review federal government policy regarding postal rates for ethnic weekly newspapers and church and professional publications. The circulation of these newspapers and publications contributes a great deal to our national life. However, since the increase in postal rates became effective, their circulation has diminished; consequently, their revenues have diminished.

It is true that part of the decrease in circulation has resulted from lost advertising, but the most serious blow was delivered by the federal government's increased postal rates which raised the cost to some publications by a staggering 500 per cent or even 1,000 per cent according to the information available. I know that tomorrow a delegation of the Canadian Ethnic Press Federation will be meeting with the Postmaster General to discuss the postal rates and irregular delivery of their publications. I hope they will receive more than just a sympathetic hearing.

● (8:30 p.m.)

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I commend the Prime Minister for the proposals in Bill C-207 which are steps in the right direction to improve services for Canadian taxpayers and indeed for the entire nation. This bill deserves our support as well as our constructive contributions during second reading stage and especially in its study by the committee of the whole House.