

(NDP, New Westminster-Coquitlam) elaborated on Clause 4 of the Bill, the clause which outlines the purposes of the Institute:

The purpose of the Institute is to increase knowledge and understanding of the issues relating to international peace and security from a Canadian perspective, with particular emphasis on arms control, disarmament, defence and conflict resolution, and to:

- a) foster, fund and conduct research on matters relating to international peace and security;
- b) promote scholarship in matters relating to international peace and security;
- c) study and propose ideas and policies for the enhancement of international peace and security;
- d) collect and disseminate information on, and encourage public discussion of issues of international peace and security.

ENERGY

Natural Gas Exports

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Gerald Regan announced July 13 that exporters of Canadian natural gas would be free to negotiate prices with customers for implementation by November 1. With the introduction of this new policy, exporters will be permitted a choice between adhering to the existing two-tiered administered price, or negotiating a price subject to review by the National Energy Board. The latter method will be based on established criteria and subject to subsequent approval by the federal Government (Energy, Mines and Resources communiqué, July 13).

Mr. Regan pointed out that the new policy should achieve a stabilization of gas export sales in the short-term, and would "provide increased sales opportunities over the medium- and long-term." At the same time, the optional negotiation process should "enhance cash flow to producers, promote activity in the natural gas industry, create jobs for Canadians and foreign exchange support for the Canadian dollar, and generate revenues to producing provinces and the Government." The decision reflected Canada's policy of allowing the export of natural gas "surplus to foreseeable Canadian needs." It also allows exporters greater flexibility in meeting international competition in the natural gas sector. The change is regarded as working toward an enhancement of natural gas sales. However, conditions were attached to the new regulations which require exporters to show that "negotiated contractual arrangements will enhance the economic return to Canada, compared with the current system, and are in Canada's national interest." As well, the price of exported gas under the new arrangement must not prove less than the price paid by Canadians. According to news reports, the new pricing policy replaces a "transitional discount plan" that was established in April of 1983 when it was perceived that higher-priced Canadian natural gas was "losing ground to US domestic supplies" during a market glut (*The Citizen*, July 14).

ENVIRONMENT

International Agency

Appearing before the Italian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Rome, Italy on June 22, Environment Minister Charles Caccia spoke of the need for the creation of an international environmental agency designed to "adjudicate inequities and possibly enforce remedies." Because of the "basic nature and global dimensions of environmental concerns," such an agency is called for, said Mr. Caccia. Because of the great responsibility concomitant with modern man's capacity to alter the environment, the world community must cooperate in determining possible consequences and effects resulting from activities altering the environment. Mr. Caccia had earlier spoken in Paris before the OECD International Conference on Environment and Economics (June 19) about the same problem. At that time, he had called for a joint protection of our "life support system," and had described the environment as "an asset to be nurtured, to be enhanced, to be restored, instead of depleted and damaged" (Minister of Environment press release, June 19).

Mr. Caccia spoke of the "greenhouse effect" of carbon dioxide in controlling the thermal balance, and noted that scientific study had indicated that increases in CO₂ concentrations had climbed to 3-4 percent per decade (with 95 percent of the emissions coming from the industrialized nations). As nations continue to burn fossil fuels, the CO₂ concentrations would continue to increase, having a continuing "steady, seemingly inexorable, effect." One possible consequence would be a "warmer atmosphere and altered precipitation patterns" resulting in a probable reduction in the capability of "global agriculture to provide food for the growing population," added Mr. Caccia.

Mr. Caccia stated that a more equitable balance must be achieved between considerations of an economic nature and possible consequences to the environment. Since the environment is our "support system," ill-considered activity in the spirit of narrow national self-interest could lead to irreparable damage. Too great a reliance upon the renewability of resources and the safety of technological solutions, could lead to the same dire consequences. For these reasons, all nations should increase their appreciation of the environment's fundamental role in the world's economy. Economy and environment interact and are interdependent. And since the problem is global, so too should be the effort to achieve a solution — thus, the idea of an international environmental agency for cooperative effort (Minister of Environment speech, June 22).

Acid Rain

The problem of acid rain pollution received continued attention in both the press and the House of Commons during this two-month period, with little headway being made in negotiations with the US administration and its agencies for a commitment on the part of the US for immediate and concrete action. Speaking in the Commons June 4, G.M. Gurbin (PC, Bruce-Grey) called upon Minister of State for External Relations Jean-Luc Pepin to say whether the Government had succeeded in impressing or would continue to press upon the US government "at the highest levels" the urgent need for positive action. Mr.