

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

that because of departmental rivalry and the veto power of Treasury Board, the federal government has muddled along with "a series of limited and isolated science policies, without having an over-all view of what was going on and a global strategy for what had to be done". That is true. It also points out that in the field of research into technology we lag far behind most of the industrial nations of the world, even small nations like Holland, Sweden and France. It points out that increasingly we are becoming dependent upon the research carried out by U.S. corporations, and that Canadian companies are having to rely more and more upon fabricating and processing research conducted by U.S. parent companies. The Committee quite properly point out that this is part of the reason for the foreign domination of our economy.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, the real reason for many of the takeovers in Canada has nothing to do with capital. Canada has been an exporter of capital for some years. The minister need not shake his head. If he takes the trouble to read the royal commission report he will find those figures are there. The real reason for many takeovers is that American parent companies are able to supply the technical know-how and apply the results of technological research. It is for that reason they are able to take over Canadian companies and to supply services that Canadian companies have not been able to supply.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I point out that the whole question of a science policy ought to be delineated by the government; the mere moving of some of the branches from one department to another will not give us a science policy. The report of the Senate committee indicates that unless we get a science policy, Canada will be in trouble.

The same is true with respect to the setting up a department of the environment. We all agree that the idea of having one minister responsible for pollution control and for the preservation of our environment is a good one. It is being suggested that the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) will probably be appointed to that post. He is a man who has always been deeply concerned about pollution problems. He comes from a part of Canada where we have seen some of the devastating effects of pollution, in particular its effects on our fishing industry, and I think the choice of that minister to become head of a department of the environment is a good one.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** But, Mr. Speaker, the appointment of a minister of the environment will do little to meet the problems of pollution unless the government is prepared to give him the legislative power and the funds with which to discharge his responsibilities. The government knows that the public are distressed and alarmed about the pollution of our air, water and soil. It knows that the public are clamouring for action. So the government has decided that this is a popular issue and that it must do something to appease the public clamour. The government's solution is to appoint a minister to deal with this matter. But, Mr.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Speaker, the mere establishment of a bureaucracy under one minister will not in itself cope with the problem of increasing pollution.

This afternoon the President of the Treasury Board said that our environment is deteriorating very rapidly. But he did not indicate in his statement, and there is nothing in the legislation which suggests that the minister of the environment will have any power to stop deterioration in our environment.

**Mr. Drury:** You have heard of the Canada Water Act?

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Let me deal with the Canada Water Act. It is illustrative of the inadequate powers which the minister of the environment will have to cope with the problems of water pollution. The President of the Treasury Board ought to know that in the Canada Water Act there are no national standards; there is no central authority. There will be water quality management boards, none of which have yet been set up, but they will have the power to set their own standards in different areas. As the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry himself said, this could lead to the establishment of pollution havens in those areas that are much less concerned and much less vigilant than other areas.

**Mr. Hogarth:** Like Nanaimo.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** The hon. member can speak for his own area.

**Mr. Hogarth:** I am speaking for yours. You know the smell of the pulp mill in Nanaimo.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I know all about the smell of the pulp mill in Nanaimo.

**Mr. Hogarth:** What can we do about it?

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan The Islands):** I am perfectly certain that the setting up of water quality management boards, with representatives of some of the polluting companies sitting on the boards, and with no national standards, is not likely to improve the situation.

**Mr. Hogarth:** You never give the minister credit for the constitutional limitations on his power.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I will deal with that matter in just a moment.

**Mr. Hogarth:** Good.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I want to point out that these boards will not meet the situation. None of them have been set up yet, and we have no indication that they will be set up. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) has been very skittish about answering questions in this regard. Their composition is ambivalent and their powers are extreme-