

*Water Resources Programs*

Without either of amendments Nos. 6 and 25 the bill will not achieve its purpose because the title reads in part as follows:

—development and utilization—

—of waterways, of course.

If we cannot include in the bill an amendment similar to those I referred to, in order to determine whether the provinces should be accountable to the federal government for the diversion or sale of our water resources, I think we are on the wrong track, because it is our duty to pass that bill with or without amendments—and I am referring to amendments Nos. 6 and 25—since we will be losing much of our efficiency as far as water control is concerned and we will deprive ourselves of a quite effective tool. Once such an important bill as Bill C-144 is passed, we should no longer be deprived of an extremely useful tool.

[English]

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** My participation in this debate stems from real interest in this particular problem. A number of the points that I was about to make have been dealt with by previous speakers; nevertheless, I do believe they require some emphasis. I am particularly pleased to see the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand) in the House this afternoon, because the diversion of water is of particular interest to this member in view of a proposal for such in his riding. I can remember that about a year ago the Fisheries Committee, at the hon. member's suggestion, visited the community of Kamloops to hear briefs, principally on the proposal of a diversion of the Shuswap waters from the Fraser into the Columbia. This water was not considered for diversion necessarily for purposes of export, but may I remind hon. members—and I am sure some must know this—that the Okanagan watershed ultimately empties into the Columbia River system. Any water, therefore, that is diverted down through the Okanagan system would ultimately become U.S. water, since the Columbia River empties into the ocean on the border between Washington and Oregon. I believe the suggested diversion involved 90,000 acre feet per year. The reason for the suggestion was the limited flow in the various Okanagan lake chains which contributes to the pollution resulting from the increased use of agricultural fertilizers and a number of other reasons such as municipalities dumping sewage into the lakes. The

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

combination of these factors was threatening the magnificent and flourishing tourist industry.

The hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo expressed great concern. I believe he had reason for it, because not only did this proposal involve the diversion of a particular amount of water from one watershed to another but it also threatened the salmon spawning capacity of the Adams River in that general area. The water considered for diversion was Fraser water flowing into the sea in Canadian territory. Naturally, as the member for Fraser Valley West, I have a particular interest in the maintenance and, in fact, improvement of the fisheries resources of that particular watershed. I know the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo would agree with me that before any plan of this far-reaching nature is allowed to proceed it should come before this House for thorough discussion and examination. In passing, I may say I believe there is a federal-provincial study being conducted into the Shuswap diversion at the moment.

• (4:40 p.m.)

The amendment before us suggests that such a matter should come before the House. We are going to have more and more pressure upon us to export our water. As mentioned by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), there is a large thirsty nation to the south of us. Within 25 years, one generation, it is expected that the population of the United States will double from 200 million to 400 million people. Naturally, their demands for resources of all kinds, including water, at least will double as a consequence.

Because of urban proliferation and growth, particularly near the Great Lakes, we have found that an increased need has developed for water for both domestic and industrial use. We have discovered that water tables in areas of California and Florida are receding. The Canada Water bill proposes to deal with pollution in a major way. Population is an inter-related problem. One of the briefest and grimmest things we can say in summary is that if we do not do anything about pollution soon at least we will solve the population explosion problem.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the Parliamentary Secretary and the government that they consider the expropriation amendment seriously because of its far-reaching implications, because of the need for the people of Canada to know when such a major