

manufacture of useful products from garbage and waste? Other countries are doing this. In some German cities garbage disposal plants are using the heat generated from the burning of garbage to produce electrical power. It is now possible to produce protein from celluloid which can be produced in turn from waste paper. It is now possible to produce motor fuel by the treatment of human and animal waste. Why are we not looking into this and why is federal money not available for research and development in this area?

Why not extend the program suggested in the resolution to encourage the development and use of such simple devices as garbage-shredders and compressors which would reduce the volume of garbage which municipalities must dispose of? Again, think not only of what such a program could do for environmental quality but think of the jobs, the useful employment it could create. Think of the export potential for the devices for environmental control which the ingenuity of the Canadian people would undoubtedly produce, if properly encouraged, as other nations move in the same direction.

But we cannot leave the problem of environmental management solely in the hands of the government. In making this, my third and final point, I am not thinking exclusively of the somewhat abstract and academic value of participatory democracy. I am also going beyond the very useful suggestion of an environmental council contained in the resolution. I am saying that I am afraid to leave any matter so important in the government's hands without providing the citizens of this country with the means of judging whether or not the government is doing a proper job.

This means that information on pollutants and polluters which is made available to governments must also be readily available to the public. It means that governments must be prepared to provide responsible citizens groups with monitoring equipment and instruction in its use so they can collect their own data and check it against data provided by industry and government. It means that governments must provide financial assistance to responsible citizen groups engaged in policing pollution so that these groups can continue to operate effectively.

To see the necessity for such provisions, those of us participating in this debate need only examine our own motivations. How many of us would be speaking if it were not for the fact that organizations such as SPEC, Pollution Probe, STOP and SPOT had brought the problem of the deteriorating quality of our environment forcibly to our attention, and if they were not in our communities prodding us into action when we show signs of slacking off? I think if each of us were to answer that question honestly there would be no doubt about the absolute necessity for equipping Canadians to judge for themselves the efficacy of their government's efforts to combat pollution.

• (2200)

Mr. Speaker, I see it is ten o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): It being ten o'clock p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Standing Order 48(11) proceedings on the motion have expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—RENT INCREASES FOR MARRIED QUARTERS—ACTION ON COMPLAINTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to return to a matter which I raised with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Comtois) on Friday last concerning the recently announced changes in the rent structure of married quarters on Canadian forces bases in this country as well as some of the military housing that is provided off the bases. In recent days I think the department has been inundated with complaints about these changes, but nowhere I think is the situation more exacerbated than with respect to the Canadian forces base at Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

On Friday last, when I asked the parliamentary secretary what action might be taken with respect to the seemingly unjust proposals put forward by the Department of National Defence all he could report was that there were indeed changes being made and that some 8,000 units would have the rent reduced. What he did not say, of course, is that the remaining two-thirds will have the rent increased. Of course, he made no reference whatever to the situation off the military base itself.

One of the things that is particularly shocking about the present situation is that seemingly there was no consultation with those directly affected. The changes proposed under the new rent structure as of April 1 have to do with the establishment of a new rent structure under the aegis of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Central Mortgage and Housing have proposed that where possible rents being charged from PMQ or bulk lease housing will be equivalent to normal rents charged in the adjacent area. One must assume, therefore, that when the rent structures were established for Canadian Forces Base Summerside, Central Mortgage and Housing entered into what most people of Prince Edward Island would regard as a bizzare equation. They compared Slemen Park with adjacent communities.

Slemen Park, I might explain, consists of the married quarters at Canadian forces base Summerside. One might call it a town in itself. It has its own store, bank, bowling alleys, swimming pool, skating rinks, schools and all the facilities and usual amenities one expects to find in a medium sized town. Instead of saying that this is a self-contained community, the Central Mortgage and Housing people compared it with rural communities close at hand. In this case one must assume that those communities were Miscouche and St. Eleanor's. These rural communities, however, are without many of the amenities of a town and therefore the people there pay a rent that is that much lower.