

Mr. McCUTCHEON: In other words, do I take from your answer that perhaps some of the press reports are a little scary?

Mr. PRINCE: Well, perhaps they are a little extreme, but I think one cannot ignore them completely by any means. If it were miraculously possible to eliminate all wastes and all nutrients coming into the lakes, I think the tendency through natural processes would be to alleviate the situation, but I do not think it would happen overnight; I think it would take many, many years.

Mr. McCUTCHEON: Under whose responsibility are the disposal systems, for example, of summer cottages?

Mr. PRINCE: Well, I think these are within the jurisdictional area of, first, the municipality if there is a municipality involved under the local medical health officer, and feeding up through to the province. The Ontario Water Resources Commission, I think provincially, is the agency which is responsible for examining the difficulties and for recommending measures of alleviation.

Mr. McCUTCHEON: In your opinion are they significant contributors to pollution throughout our lakes area?

Mr. PRINCE: I really do not think so, not a gross contribution basis. I think aesthetically it is rather poor. I think that many of these things can be cleared up by property owners and district association housekeeping. I might say there is a problem wherever electrification of summer cottage areas occurs and where water facilities are put in, in the precambrian area where there is not perhaps adequate filtering of effluence from water systems. There is a tendency to feed back through relatively coarse sand and gravel to relatively small bodies of water, and if this is the case then I think the local conditions can be quite severe.

It is rather difficult to recommend what the answer is because it is obvious that in a part-time occupied area of a few hundred cottages, that to put in permanent sewage disposal works is an extremely costly proposition. It is rather difficult to know what to recommend in these instances.

Mr. HALES: With respect to that supplementary question by Mr. McCutcheon, would this not indicate sort of a lack of responsibility here, or a lack of coordination; in other words, everybody's job is nobody's job? What steps have been taken to coordinate the control of this pollution business? You say first of all it is the municipality's responsibility, and then it is provincial. But if neither of these two branches of government take any action, whose responsibility is it?

Mr. PRINCE: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, it is still clear that it is a provincial responsibility. In the past several months I have had considerable correspondence from people in the resort areas and throughout the province more or less indicating that this is a federal responsibility and if not, why not. The only action we can take and have taken is to refer these people, or their correspondence, to the Ontario Water Resources Commission, which I have done on several occasions. I find they are familiar with these problems, and in many