

must move before it is too late and find some long term solutions to the problem plaguing our environment.

I think we must do two basic things, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we must pump hundreds of millions of dollars into research on pollution control. This is something that we have let slide for too many years. We have started to move in that direction with the creation of the Department of the Environment, but I suggest we are moving too slowly. We should have a department and a program with teeth and money.

Secondly, we must pass much stiffer anti-pollution laws with national standards for air, water and land pollution. We should not be soft with industries that are polluting. I realize that in order to do these things we must trample on some toes because we live in a capitalist society which is concerned about making a profit, and it may not be profitable for some companies to invest in pollution control equipment. But that is a social choice, a social decision which we must make collectively as a society, as a country. That is the type of planning that must be emphasized in Canada and the whole world today, because in this field mankind is lagging.

• (1720)

Besides, how can we really measure in dollars and cents the cost of the destruction of our environment and the long term effects that destruction will have on mankind and animal life. Many of those effects we do not understand today. In Canada, many policies in this field ought to be introduced, the first and foremost of those being national pollution standards for air, water and land. These pollution standards must be enforced vigorously, otherwise they will not be effective. We must also develop some rational plan regarding our non-renewable resources. Today, we are more interested in exploiting these resources, in selling them to a foreign country, than in conserving them. Many people are warning us that it will not be many years before we shall have run out of many of our non-renewable resources. In Canada we take no heed of such warnings. Instead, we offer bigger tax concessions to oil, gas and mining companies. That must be changed. That is why I am concerned about matters like the continental energy policy and talks going on between Canada and the United States regarding trade.

There must be more research into pollution caused by automobile exhaust systems. Such pollution affects the cities of this country. Automobile exhausts are one of the largest sources of pollution in Canada. There must be more research into public transportation, so that people may commute from one part of a city or country to another without using automobiles. There must also be more research and planning with regard to recycling and preserving minerals. We must preserve them instead of just dumping them and losing them forever. Also, as the hon. member for Kootenay West suggested a number of times, we must establish an environmental council of Canada, which will advise on and study problems connected with pollution. The council will recommend solutions that we, as Canadians, ought to follow. We should establish a pollution control fund as well that would provide substantial amounts of money to abate the problems of pollution.

#### *Request for Environmental Council*

I suggest that loans and funds in this area should be made available to municipalities of the country, to enable them to instal sewage treatment systems. Here, again, is an area we must be concerned about. Sewage, as we know, is one of the major causes of pollution in our rivers, streams and lakes. Much research into sewage aspects of pollution is being undertaken in Sweden. There, they are talking about recycling waste products and about installing systems that will use about one sixteenth the quantity of water that we use for disposing of sewage. Much less pollution is expected to be the result. As I say, we can do many things like that. Loans and grants must be made available to municipalities. It is useless blaming municipalities for our pollution if we do not give them funds to correct the situation.

In addition, the Department of the Environment must co-ordinate these activities. That department must be given teeth. I am not being unfair, I think, when I say that until now, that department has been a disappointment. It does not seem to know where it is going. It does not wield enough authority. It has no long term plans and is not providing us with much information regarding its activities. I hope I have made clear what our country should be doing regarding the abatement of pollution. Not one of us knows how many years are left for mankind. We must begin implementing some solutions very quickly, because time is running out.

Before closing, may I say a word about the world population explosion and the rate of population increase. Today, the world population is increasing by 70 million people each year. For 1800 years, up until 1830, the world population doubled about every 200 years. In 1830 the world population was approximately 1 billion people. Between 1830 and 1930, the world population doubled, to 2 billion. Between 1930 and 1960 the world population increased by another billion people, to 3 billion. Between 1960 and 1970, world population went up to 3.6 billion, and we expect it to double again by the year 2,000. Over 7 billion people will then be living on our planet. This concerns me greatly. We live in a country that is sparsely populated, if one excludes some of our larger cities. The population problem affects the world in general and Canada, through the United Nations, can supply more leadership in this area than is being supplied at present.

I have tried to speak of problems that I think should be examined immediately. We are just learning about environmental pollution. Some ramifications of pollution are not known and we will need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in research and development to overcome the problem. Also, we will need to introduce much stiffer laws than those on the statute books today. This question is one that concerns us all. It cuts across party lines and boundaries because, no matter where we live, the problems of pollution have become critical and need to be solved.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with the subject of the environment from three points of view in the short time at my disposal. First, I shall deal with it from the national point of view; second, I shall mention the international situation and third, I want to deal with some matters of particular concern to my own constituents in the field of the environment.