

*Water Resources*

open. We are prepared to discuss these things and do our best to come up with the best possible water management bill for the people of Canada.

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** Mr. Speaker, while the problem of pollution is not a critical one in the area from which I come, it is a current crisis in many regions of Canada. I feel this measure is of great importance to us all because it is becoming increasingly evident, at least to all who keep themselves up-to-date on world affairs, that if we do not get worldwide pollution and rising birth rates under control in this decade, our civilization may well not last beyond the year 2000.

We human beings, with all our great intelligence and initiative, are much like common rats in this regard; if left to our own devices we shall pollute and breed ourselves out of existence. I do not think it would be fair to point the finger of blame for pollution in any one direction. Government and industry are both blamed from time to time. But I do not think it is as simple as that. Every human being contributes to pollution to some extent. Every member of this House has, over the years, made his or her contribution to pollution.

● (8:40 p.m.)

Another trait which is common to man is the compulsion to bite the hand that feeds him; to share responsibility for pollution and then to blame government or industry for the results. We all appreciate the standard of living that a profitable industrial complex affords us, while criticizing it as though it were completely responsible for all the pollution that has occurred. If there were ever a matter upon which we need complete co-operation among all parties in this House, among governments, industry and business at all levels, it is the whole area of pollution.

We cannot segregate and classify one type of pollution that might come under the Water Act because all pollution is tied together—air pollution, land pollution, soil pollution. One progresses to the other. They form a pollution chain and eventually will have to be dealt with under one agency. Industry must realize the futility of growth and profits if within a matter of two or three decades our once great civilization lies as quiet as a lunar landscape because of pollution. Governments, not just ours but all governments in the world, have their heads in the sand if in their governing they believe that matters like ideology, lan-

[Mr. Orange.]

guage and culture are of any real significance. These are matters that should be used only as talking points for people who are otherwise unoccupied, because the real battle—the battle that, if lost, will effect the eventual demise of many of the younger members of this chamber—is the battle to keep man from polluting his environment to an uninhabitable level.

Citizens, men, women and children should all be made to realize the futility of material success, the futility of almost everything upon which we put value today, if there will be no tomorrow. I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that worldwide pollution is one of the greatest problems facing mankind. I will not mention the individual instances and problem areas in the country that are concerned with pollution. Members who have preceded me have done a more than adequate job in citing examples. Likewise, the shortcomings of the bill have been stressed many times.

In summary one might say that the bill will make no effective change in our pollution control. As several hon. members have pointed out, we have the power under several other acts, the Navigable Waters Act and the Fisheries Act, to enforce many of the pollution measures, if not all, that are proposed in this bill. But what worries me is that we might tie ourselves to so many regulations and red tape, and establish so many agencies, boards and petty empires that we will be in the same position as we are now with our grain marketing system. There we are so sorely overloaded with red tape, regulations, commissions, agencies and boards that we can do nothing but present claims and counter-claims, and in the final analysis we are storing half of the world's wheat, with the storage and handling charges eating away at the total value of the product.

In conclusion, I say to the minister who will be in charge of anti-pollution measures, "Yours, sir, is by far and away the most important portfolio in the government, for it is in this area that the continuation of civilization will depend." It would be the tragedy of this Parliament, even the tragedy of the century or of time, if any politician for the sake of expediency were to court the popular vote or the industrial establishments at the expense of pollution control.

**Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate many of the speakers who preceded me in this debate because the concerns which they expressed about the water resources of the country are concerns