

*Water Resources*

and Resources (Mr. Greene) says will be needed for the next decade to handle the problem. Neither does it suggest any possibility of federal grants or federal matching monies for provincial or regional water control systems.

In the third place, the legislation fails to provide financial help for municipalities all across the country whose resources are very, very limited. Some municipalities have asked for Central Mortgage and Housing Loans to instal sewage treatment plants, but the minister states that such loans are not available. I do not know whether he intends such loans to be made available when the present period of belt-tightening and austerity is over; we have not heard about that.

In the fourth place, this legislation falls short because it is not anti-pollution legislation. It is not legislation to stop pollution; it is legislation to permit pollution. It promulgates a "pay-as-you-pollute" policy which will permit industry to pollute and then pay public authorities to take out pollution. In my view that is not what the people of this country want nor is it good national housekeeping in any sense of the word.

The reason for this, Mr. Speaker, is not hard to find. This law was not framed to provide clean water for Canadians. This law was framed to suit the convenience of big industries whose operations pollute the waterways of Canada. The minister admitted as much when he said he had sought to devise "a method compatible with our free enterprise system." Had he reflected a little he would have realized that it is quite impossible to devise any method of keeping Canada's water clean that would be compatible with the will of individual industrialists to pollute the water and then leave it to municipal sewage plants to take out the pollution.

Whether fees are paid is not the main issue because no amount of fees will get the pollution out of the water and, as my colleague said earlier in this debate, there is no sense in loading onto the public something which ought to be the responsibility of the polluting industrialists. The result of this legislation will only be to allow the waste-dumpers to continue to foul the water. In my view, that is not a good piece of legislation. Sure, they will have to pay for the privilege of doing this, but what the people of Canada need now is a law to ban pollution; not to take dirt out of the water but to prevent dirt being put in.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Now I should like to talk about the one issue of phosphate detergents and what they are doing to the lakes, rivers and waterways of Canada. People are becoming aroused about this matter. If there are excuses to be made for the shortcomings of government in this field or for those of anybody else, such excuses can rest on only one thing and that is the speed with which this matter is developing.

In the fall of 1969, the International Joint Commission issued a report on this subject which was quite specific. It stated that 67 per cent of all the phosphorous in the form of phosphates being put into Lake Erie and Lake Ontario comes from municipal sewage. Of this amount, 50 per cent to 70 per cent is the direct result of phosphates in detergents. I see no reason why the minister could not have acted upon that finding of the International Joint Commission when framing this legislation.

Women all across Canada are suddenly realizing that all these detergents which they have been using with claims to make clothing whiter than white and brighter than bright have assisted in the process of killing the Great Lakes and are well on the way to murdering the other lakes and waterways into which they find their way. The women of this country are becoming alarmed and disgusted at having been made unknown accomplices in this process of ruining and wrecking the waterways of this country under the guise of getting clothes whiter than white and brighter than bright. It is too great a price to pay.

A group of consumers near Montreal last fall said quite definitely that a not-quite-so-white wash is a small price to pay if it helps make our choked and stinking rivers clean again. They were even prepared to again start using non-polluting laundry soaps in order to save the rivers of this country. Not only would it save our rivers from pollution but it would keep the health of children of this and other generations from being wrecked and ruined in the same way that the rivers are being wrecked and ruined because of pollution.

An article in the October 18 edition of the *Montreal Star*, commenting on the International Joint Commission's report stated:

The daily use of detergents by housewives is doing more to ruin our waters as a major balancing factor in the ecological cycle than almost anything else.