

*Supply—Industry*

council. At page 26 of that report the following paragraph appears:

The division of building research, in its continuing service to Canada's largest industry, serves the whole field of design and construction. This includes not only problems associated with super-structure design, but also questions related to the design of foundations and to the ground on which structures and buildings have to be founded.

Soil mechanics and allied studies, grouped under the title Geotechnical Research, continue, therefore, to occupy an important place in the program of work of the division.

On the same page under the heading "Code" I find the following:

The national building code of Canada provides probably the most important bridge between research and practice. Although published through the associate committee on the national building code, the code reflects many of the most recent findings from the division's work.

Early in 1965, the fourth (new) edition of the code was published. Before the end of the year the first printing of 10,000 copies was almost exhausted, indicating the wide acceptance of the code across Canada. By local legal adoption, it is now in official use from coast to coast by 80 per cent of the cities of Canada, and for the direct benefit of about 70 per cent of the total urban population.

New adoptions of the code are continuing so that the time is not far distant when Canada will have essential technical uniformity in all its local building regulations, through the voluntary adoption of a publication of the National Research Council firmly based upon the results of building research.

It seems to me that if what is described there in respect of the division of building research and the national building code, the adoption of which has spread across Canada, could be translated into terms of developing standards and implementing controls in the field of pollution, it could provide almost an ideal parallel. As I said earlier in my remarks, the general consensus of the conference was that the field of enforcement and administration of pollution control properly rests, constitutionally and otherwise, primarily in the hands of the provincial authorities, and through them is applied to the municipal or regional divisions of the country.

However, there was general agreement, which certainly confirmed the view I have held for quite some time, that the only way in which this whole problem can be really attacked in a proper manner is if we in this parliament, through the federal government, exercise real leadership and guidance. Only when we can develop a national code and national standards based upon active and continuing research, so that the standards can be continually upgraded as new science and technology are developed, can we make continuing progress in this field which will lead to

more uniformity across the entire country, thereby avoiding all the complications in the various fields of industry because of the existence of different standards in different regions or provinces of the country.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I should like to conclude my remarks by saying that if nothing more has emerged out of that conference than this, certainly the most logical guideline that can be actively implemented with the least possible delay, we should utilize the existing framework of the national research council to establish a national pollution control institute and through that institute develop a national pollution standards code. Backed by the kind of work done in the field of building research we could continually upgrade our approach in dealing with this whole problem.

The most knowledgeable spokesmen at the conference suggested that most of the research on the technical problems of the control of domestic sewage or waste had been done, but continually reference was made to what some described as the more exotic chemical compounds that increasingly emanate from developing industry. I do not know whether some of the chemicals that emanate from some industrial plants in my constituency could be described as exotic, but they are certainly chemicals that a great many of my constituents would prefer to see somewhere else than in the air or water of the region in which they live. The truth of what I say is obvious to all of us, and applies to more and more parts of our country as time goes on.

● (8:20 p.m.)

I join with the hon. member for Kootenay West in urging on the minister and the house the view that no time ought to be lost. The guidelines from the conference and the spirit and interest generated must not be lost. We in this house should accept our share of responsibility for seeing that they are not lost.

We cannot afford delay. I know that what I am about to mention is not directly parallel with the facts, but because of experience in this house I must take advantage of the first opportunity to raise some of these matters in the aftermath of the conference. I am not indulging in political gibes, but I recall that not too long ago a debate, not concluded yet, was begun in this house and reference was made to guidelines in the field of medical care which were laid down in 1919. With that background in mind I hope that hon. members now occupying the treasury benches will take a somewhat different approach to implement