

There may be some problems of administration that I have not visualized, and I am not the originator of the suggestion. However, it seems reasonable in view of the fact that those who really need this coverage are not able to take advantage of it. There is not much use having legislation which provides protection, if the protection is inaccessible.

Another point I wish to make concerns the five-year averaging for maximum coverage limits for tree fruits. This applies mainly to the Okanagan Valley where I lived for a number of years. The years 1965 and 1969 were extremely difficult in the tree fruit industry in the Okanagan. The maximum limits for coverage are based on a percentage of the five-year production average. If 1965 and 1969 were included in the five-year average, the maximum limit on the amount of protection that a farmer could purchase under this legislation would be necessarily limited. It does not take a genius to see how including two poor years in five works against the kind of insurance protection needed by the orchardists. I ask the minister to review this policy so that five more normal years could be used to determine a maximum coverage limit. The present policy makes it particularly difficult, also for those people starting production with new orchards. When a new enterprise is commenced, it is expected that there will be low yields for a great many years because the orchard needs years to mature.

The strawberry farmers in my constituency have suffered some severe years. A number of them have applied to the processors asking for an agreement with the processors to buy all the production for the lifetime of a particular patch. We can understand why the farmers want this agreement. They want this assurance because it provides stability. The processors are not very sympathetic to this proposal. The processors are faced with a glut. This is not because there is no demand for their production, whether it is canned, jam or frozen. The state of our economy is in such a disastrous condition that there is no purchasing power to fulfil the demand. It is not caused by any lack of demand. People are not in an economic position to purchase the products of the producer. Everyone is being hurt by present economic policies.

I hope the minister will use his great weight and influence on other members of the cabinet to initiate policies to help the economy and get us out of our self-induced economic slump. In this way there will be greater purchasing power. The production of the farm, forest and other industries will then have a better chance of being marketed.

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Speaker the legislation before us is very important. Normally I am very brief in my remarks in the House. However, under the circumstances I wonder whether I might have the privilege of calling it four o'clock and contributing to the debate at a later time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. It being four o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, namely, notices of motions.

23786—15½

Environmental Pollution

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions through what are described as usual channels. I think there might be a disposition on the part of hon. members to proceed to motion No. 23 which stands on the Order Paper. The preceding ones will stand.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): And retain their position.

Mr. Francis: And retain their position, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is it agreed that all motions preceding No. 23 shall stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED SETTING UP OF AGENCY TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND ITS EFFECTS UPON HUMANS, ETC.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpègue) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider setting up, in co-operation with the provinces, an institute of human environmental studies to determine among other matters (a) the degree of air, soil, water and noise pollution the human species can tolerate without serious effects on physical and mental health (b) the type of environment which stimulates the most desirable qualities of physical and mental health in the human species (c) the type of national development which would give satisfactory environment to the greatest possible number of Canadians, and (d) the minimum of modifications to the present-day indiscriminate and largely unplanned growth of our metropolitan areas necessary to put within reach of the inhabitants of these areas a quality of environment which would provide (i) adequate housing (ii) adequate recreational facilities, including parkland, and (iii) adequate social infrastructure such as transportation, education, hospital and recreational facilities.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to initiate this one-hour debate on a very important general subject. I do so because I believe the general subject is of immense importance with regard to the type of environment in which future generations of Canadians will live. This is a subject which has application not only to Canada but to other parts of the world.

• (4:00 p.m.)

I am one who believes that a representative of the people at any level of government has the heavy responsibility of doing his share to ensure that the inheritance this generation hands on to future generations of Canadians is the best possible, not only in terms of material things but in terms of spiritual, moral and cultural values. It is well to ask what kind of heritage this generation is about to pass on to future generations of Canadians. I think I can do no better than quote briefly from the opening remarks made at the opening of the federal-provincial conference on housing and urban