

Water Resources Programs

I should like to indicate to the House that provinces also employ experts, and to my knowledge at least six provinces have indicated they are in substantial agreement with the type of measures advocated by the hon. member for Kootenay West in his amendment and by the hon. member for South Western Nova. These provinces are calling for the same kind of national standards for which the two members are calling in the amendments presented.

I should like to quote briefly from the brief which the Manitoba government presented to the Federal-Provincial Conference in Ottawa on February 16 and 17, 1970. It is a position paper entitled "Government of Manitoba Position on Pollution." I should like to quote two or three sentences:

The province—

That is the province of Manitoba.

—is prepared to co-operate fully in any efforts to act upon the problem but wishes to emphasize that the federal government's full participation in co-ordinating and financing measures for the control of environmental pollution is urgently required.

It goes on to state:

—unless there is strong federal co-ordination provinces which apply adequate anti-pollution standards will be placed at a decided disadvantage in the competition for industrial development.

Further on the brief indicates the steps the province feels should be taken to control pollution. The province emphasizes that whatever steps are taken they should not lead to one area becoming favoured over another by industry. Spokesmen for this party have argued that the legislation before us is lacking in four respects if it is to be effective in cleaning up existing pollution and in preventing further pollution. The first is a lack of the sort of massive funds required to provide loans to municipalities, provincial governments and industries which will be required to construct pollution control devices which often are costly. This particular set of amendments was quite properly ruled out of order under the rules which govern the operation of this House and therefore we cannot talk about them.

This party has also argued that the polluting of our waters and environment should be a criminal offence. The government, however, is unwilling to accept that principle as an amendment. We also say that this legislation, in order to be effective, must provide a mechanism for co-ordinating federal, provincial and municipal efforts in respect of pollu-

tion control. To some extent this legislation does affect that, in that it provides a mechanism for the co-ordination of federal and provincial efforts, although it does not seem to provide for the incorporation of municipal efforts. To that extent, however, it represents some progress. Fourthly, we have argued that there must be national standards. It is because the other amendments have been partially taken care of or have been ruled out of order for one reason or another that we are concentrating our remarks in respect of this particular bill on the establishment of national standards for water management.

In conclusion may I say I can only hope, in light of the remarks made by hon. members on this side of the House, that the minister will reconsider his current position which to me would appear to be in opposition to the idea of national standards to govern measures designed to prevent the further pollution of our water and to clean up the pollution that already exists.

• (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on motion No. 7. All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75 (11), the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

The question is now on motion No. 14. All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.