

Water Resources Programs

make should contain, without exception, means of enabling the individual citizen to feel that he is, once again, able to influence the course of events. We must ensure that the individual citizen is able to regain his fast disappearing respect for the democratic process by ensuring that at least his objections to what is happening around him can be heard and acted upon.

• (3:10 p.m.)

In this regard I should like to quote a brief passage from Bertrand Russell's book "Authority and the Individual". Mr. Russell writes:

We know too much and feel too little. At least we feel too little of those creative emotions from which a good life springs. In regard to what is important we are passive; where we are active it is over trivialities. If life is to be saved from boredom relieved only by disaster, means must be found of restoring individual initiative, not only in things that are trivial, but in things that really matter. I do not mean that we should destroy those parts of modern organizations upon which the very existence of large populations depends, but I do mean that organizations should be much more flexible, more relieved by local autonomy, and less oppressive to the human spirit through its impersonal vastness, than it has become through its unbearably rapid growth and centralization, with which our ways of thought and feeling have been unable to keep pace.

This amendment is an attempt to accommodate the wholly understandable and completely desirable need of individual citizens to know that they count for something in the scheme of things. It is a step toward the flexibility and the local autonomy of which Mr. Russell writes.

In summary, I ask hon. members to support this motion, both because it is essential to the effective operation of the proposed legislation and because it represents a highly desirable technique of social reform.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion? All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

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

Some hon. Members: Nay.

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

Some hon. Members: On division.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost on division.

Motion No. 23 (Mr. Hardy) negatived.

[Mr. Rowland.]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (for Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved:

(24) That Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be amended by (a) substituting for the reference to section 34 in line 1 on page 28 a reference to section 37, and (b) by striking out lines 6 and 7 on page 28 and substituting the following therefor:

"corporating the agency or in respect of its operating expenses or make loans to any agency in respect of capital costs incurred by it; and"—

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I should like to say a few brief words of explanation with regard to this amendment. It is part of the package which enables loans to be given to water quality management agencies for capital works. Hon. members will recall that earlier we made provision whereby loans might be made to water management agencies for the purpose of such capital works. This particular amendment extends the power of the minister, with approval of the Governor in Council, to make such loans to these particular agencies.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I merely rise to say that this amendment is in line with recommendations that were made from our part of the House on second reading that the federal government should become involved in some capital costs and loans. We agree with the amendment.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I would like to indicate that we endorse the amendment before the House. We pressed very vigorously for changes in the financial structure under the bill during the committee hearings. It is apparent that the government recognized the weakness of their original draft and accepted the improvements which were recommended by the committee members. I should like to point out that the financial aspect is still one of the major weaknesses of this bill, or rather the lack of a definite financial formula to help provincial governments, municipalities and even these agencies all across Canada. The fight against pollution will founder as a result of the lack of finances to take care of the pollution problems.

However, this amendment is an improvement. It means that water quality manage-