

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

doing in the national capital area of Ottawa and Hull to fight water pollution? Second, what is the federal government doing in the many other areas of Canada where this same general problem exists to ensure that there should be a unified and effective effort made to combat this very serious modern problem?

**Mr. Jack Davis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for New Westminster asked two questions. The first was: What is the federal government doing in the Ottawa area to combat the very serious problem of pollution? It is doing several things. On behalf of the federal government, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Pepin) has offered at the recent meeting of the council of resource ministers, to pay most, and perhaps all, of the cost of a comprehensive study of the problem of pollution in the Ottawa river.

● (10:10 p.m.)

The federal government has also offered, as it has in many other situations, to help finance the cleaning up of the river through the construction of sewage treatment plants.

For some years now the federal government has put up two thirds of the cost of the construction of sewage treatment plants erected by municipalities. These loans have also included a forgiveness clause whereby 25 per cent of this money was later forgiven or cancelled. This amounts to an appreciable subsidy or reduction on the interest rate on money available for this purpose.

An incentive is also contained in legislation which was passed in 1965. The budget of that year gave an incentive with the rapid write-off for all new plant and equipment used for the treatment of liquid wastes leaving industrial plants. The municipalities on the Ontario side of the river have taken advantage of these provisions, both in respect of sewage and, to a lesser degree industrial waste.

On the Quebec side there has been less enthusiasm, despite pressure from provincial authorities for this to be done. In any case, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has written to Premier Daniel Johnson in Quebec and to hon. Mr. J. R. Simonett of Ontario offering to put up 100 percent of the cost of the comprehensive over-all study of the problems of control of the Ottawa river.

The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Mather) also asked what the federal government is doing to deal with similar problem situations elsewhere in Canada. It is

[Mr. Mather.]

offering to pay for part or all the research involved in assessing problems in numerous areas. It is doing a great deal right here in Ontario. It is helping to build a research institute in Hamilton which will deal with problems on the great lakes. It is also offering to municipalities in other parts of Canada the forgiveness features on loans for cleanup plants for municipalities and rapid write-offs for industrial plant equipment.

[*Translation*]

TRANSPORT—INQUIRY AS TO PROTECTION AT LEVEL CROSSINGS

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, it is painful to bring back to memory the anniversary of a tragedy which shook the Canadian people in 1966. I am thinking of the railroad accident that occurred at Dorion. A few days hence, a year will have elapsed since the calamity took place in the province of Quebec.

I should like to renew my request once again, at the risk of being considered a bore by the most indulgent parliamentary secretary to the hon. Minister of Transport, the member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) who has always been kind enough to take into consideration whatever requests I have made to him about the improvements to railway crossings.

I insist again this year, Mr. Speaker, because, with the introduction of turbo-train service, which trains travel at extremely high and dangerous speeds, I must ask to what extent the organization responsible for ensuring public safety at grade crossings has considered a much more imaginative policy than that already being applied. The operation of turbo-trains poses a most serious problem and creates considerable difficulties with regard to the safety of the public.

I should also like to know to what extent innovations will be considered in that field. I should like to know to what extent the suggestions and recommendations made by various organizations concerned more particularly with public safety have been taken into consideration.

In my opinion, the situation that must be faced, due to modern technology which makes available to the public those dangerous devices that are becoming essential, is one which, on the other hand, gives rise to problems requiring a solution.