

Pollution Research

lot of research is being done. As was mentioned by the hon. member who just spoke, we are creating a new department which will bring all research under one roof. What the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) is asking for will be done. I am sure he is aware that some areas of Canada have carried out a great deal of research into the processing of solid waste.

In my own area, including the city of Windsor and the county of Essex, every municipality will have put in either sewage treatment plants or lagoons by the end of 1971. I would say that it is probably much further ahead than any other area in Canada, not only with regard to the control of solid waste that comes from sewage treatment plants but solid waste that goes up from smokestacks or that we try to bury in the ground. Solid wastes include many products other than sewage, as was mentioned by other hon. members, and therefore could be recycled. There are many ways in which this can be done and, as the previous speaker said, we know that other countries are doing it.

I am sure the hon. member for Hamilton West is aware that research is being carried out at the institute at Burlington of solid waste coming out of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. This waste is composed of the richest soil and the richest nutrients that one can imagine. It also may contain some pollutants which we would not want in our plants if we are to use the product of the plants for human consumption. This waste could be treated and used in many parts of Ontario and many areas south of Lake Erie, especially the areas where open-pit mining was carried out. It has been suggested to me by people from Ohio that it would only take a short pipeline, about 400 miles long, to reach this horrible-looking landscape which has been pockmarked by mining, and waste could be pumped there to fill in the holes and turn the area into a parkland which could be used by humans.

A program of reforestation could then take place. We know what young forests can do to produce oxygen. Research carried out at the Burlington Institute of waste out of Hamilton Bay shows that vegetables grow twice as fast as normal when fertilized with this waste. The mineral content of these plants when harvested has not yet been analyzed, but it will be and the results are anxiously awaited. I do not know whether the standard of living in the Hamilton area is much higher than that in the Lake Erie area, but according to tests the wastes are much richer in content than the waste from cities which have no sewage treatment plants.

We also know that algae grows wild as a result of the tremendous fertilization in the lake. It grows ten times faster than it would under normal conditions. The algae continually adds a high protein content to the waste. We are dealing with a substance which is unknown to us because insufficient research has been carried out to determine how valuable it is. The very thing we condemn may turn out to be one of the best things we could use in many parts of our nation. It could be pumped back to make productive lands that have been eroded to such an extent that they are completely unproductive at the present time.

[Mr. Whelan.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. It being six o'clock—

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. You were probably going to notice that the clock was pointing to six o'clock, but I would like to draw to the attention of the House that one of the few democratic propositions remaining to the private member is private members' hour. This period is one hour long. Today private members' hour started at 5.08 p.m., and I deplore any effort, by accident or otherwise, to downgrade or shorten private members' hour. We on this side would not under any circumstances preclude any hon. member from speaking. I would therefore ask you, Mr. Speaker, not to see the clock so that members opposite can have an opportunity to complete the discussion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): As the hon. member knows, the Chair must abide by the rules of the House. Only by unanimous consent could we continue this sitting for a few minutes longer. Are hon. members agreeable to pursuing the debate?

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope there is disposition on the part of hon. members to giving unanimous consent to carry on for seven or eight minutes longer, to make up for lost time. But I should add that this afternoon we voted on an amendment put forward by an opposition member, and that the voting went past five o'clock. There has been no effort on the part of anybody to downgrade private members' hour. I believe members on the government side will give unanimous consent to extending the debate for another seven or eight minutes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is there unanimous agreement to continue the sitting for seven minutes?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Alexander: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. When you rose, Mr. Speaker, you were under the impression that it was six o'clock. You were quite right. Perhaps you were going to indicate to the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) that his time had expired, and if that is so perhaps you should do so now. That is the only point I have.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) still has the floor and has not completed the time allotted to him.

Mr. Whelan: If the hon. member for Hamilton West wishes to add a few more suggestions to his point of order, I am perfectly willing to allow him to do so if it will take up part of the time that I have been allotted. There are many more things I could say but I notice that two or three members wish to talk about the treatment of solid waste. Many hon. members may think that the