

*Request for Environmental Council*

**Mr. Deachman:** The hon. member gets his figures up to 30 cents by talking about oil that is brought in and taken out again. That is not really what people in the oil business are doing.

I also want to mention the Northern Inland Waters Act which protects the waters of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the same way that provincial water acts protect waters in the provinces. We also passed the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zone Act by which we extended fishing zones to the 12 mile limit, including on the west coast Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. I also want to refer to the passage of the amendments to the Fisheries Act which have strengthened regulations respecting the deposit of sewage and waste in waters frequented by fish.

• (1710)

I want to refer to amendments to the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act which provide stringent safety and anti-pollution controls for offshore drilling operations, thus preventing oil drilling in the Gulf of Georgia and thereby avoiding a disaster such as they suffered at Santa Barbara in the United States. This is a matter of grave concern on the west coast. The Gulf of Georgia is a little inland sea, one of the best areas in the world for navigation in inland waters, for sport and commercial fishing and recreation, but it could all be destroyed by a disaster such as that which happened at Santa Barbara.

I want also to refer to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act which requires new automobiles to be fitted with a device to reduce exhaust emission and to lower noise levels. I want also to refer to the Clean Air Act which we have just passed and which gives the federal government the authority to establish clean air standards across the country. There are other ways in which the battle against pollution has been carried forward by this government under existing legislation. We reduced the level of phosphates in detergents under the Pesticides Control Act which provides severe restrictions on the use of DDT and other pesticides. Incentives have been offered to industries buying air and water anti-pollution devices so that there is now no excuse for them not cutting down on pollution from their plants.

The government has also provided loans to municipalities through Central Mortgage and Housing for sewage treatment plants. At the Iona Island plant in the city of Vancouver much of the work was financed by a very large loan from Central Mortgage and Housing. This plant has made a great deal of difference to the residents of English Bay and to the parks in the area.

**Mr. Speaker,** these are just some of the acts of parliament which have been passed by this government since 1968 in the war on pollution. I think we can take a great deal of credit in this House for what has been done and for the legislation which has passed through this Chamber in the fight against pollution across Canada.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, the motion before us today moved by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding) is a very important one which affects all of us regardless of our financial position

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger).]

and, in many ways, regardless of where we live in Canada. Pollution, problems of the environment, the ecology, are today international problems; they are severe problems which we cannot escape. This is an issue that all of us are going to have to face up to and put more money into than we have in the past.

Even in my constituency, which is primarily rural and not industrialized, more and more people are becoming concerned about the general question of the environment. In the last few months I have had people coming to see me and have had letters regarding air pollution and pollution of the water. In January, a gentleman came to see me who was concerned about the fact that his cattle would not drink water from the Qu'Appelle River because cities had dumped sewage into it. More people are becoming aware of the problem because they hear about it in the news every day and they read about the effect pollution is having on our water and air.

**Mr. Speaker,** I think the general question of pollution is another example of the evolution of social policy lagging behind technology. In the last 20 or 30 years there has been a technological revolution but our social policies and institutions have not kept pace. In man's early days he had little impact on the environment. There were a few streams polluted here and there, a few manmade deserts, but for the most part nature was able to replenish itself. Streams were able to cleanse themselves. Nature sustained man and remained in control. This is not the case today when man is controlling nature. In the last 60 or 70 years we have had radical changes in the quantitative way of life of mankind and we now find that we are overwhelming nature.

This is primarily the problem that we are discussing today. We are the first generation with the power to establish its own destiny, its own environment. We have the power to destroy it with nuclear weapons, biological weapons and so on. Many of the long term effects of such weapons are not known. We have created for ourselves an environmental nightmare. Many people in the world breathe smog and eat food polluted with pesticides. Rivers and lakes are so polluted that fish can no longer live in them. Many of our non-renewable resources are being exhausted without any long term plans for future generations.

When I was reading some material in preparation for these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I came across a few terrifying facts. Each year man is adding some 140 billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere; sewage production in North America averages 120 gallons per person per day which goes into the waterways. As we know most pollutants end up in the ocean and ecologists are warning us about the long term effects on plankton and life in the ocean which produces about 70 per cent of the earth's oxygen; some 7 million tons of pesticides are added to the atmosphere each year; pollution from fuel may double by the year 1980. We know how much smog there is now in some of the large cities and perhaps in eight or ten years urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks in order that they may breathe oxygen.

I think it is very clear that the problem before us transcends political boundaries and economic advantage. We