

Water Resources Programs

It has been said many times that those areas of Canada which are not covered by the Canada Water Act will be covered by the Fisheries Act and amendments to that act. It is important to note that under legislation prior to the amendments to the Fisheries Act, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry could not act to protect fish until such time as they were dead. Then he could act. Under this amendment the waters can be checked at any time. This is very important because with the river basin concept and the Fisheries Act the waters of Canada will be under constant scrutiny. Pure water will result from this far-reaching constructive program.

I have said many times before, and I repeat it, that if we are going to introduce constructive legislation such as the Canada Water Act and amendments to bills such as the Fisheries Act to combat pollution in Canada, and if the polluter must pay, we must have programs and research. At the same time we must decide whether the urban areas of Canada should be permitted to grow at the same pace as in the past. Canadians do not want Canada to become an urbanized area where everyone is crammed together. This results in greatly increased pollution in particular areas. If all Canadians are crammed into a few urban communities, where would the money come from to combat pollution? It would be much more costly to combat pollution. We would be better off to bring in other constructive programs in the future. This must be done with the co-operation of the provinces.

The money it will cost to combat pollution in urban communities, if we continue the way we are, could be used to build access roads and better communications to other areas of Canada. This would spread out the basic industry, the tax dollar and the economy. Canada would be a healthier country; the various parts of Canada would be economically sound.

I wish to pay tribute to our technical and scientific people working in the field of water research. Our committee had the pleasure and privilege of visiting the Bedford Institute of Oceanography approximately four weeks ago. We were all very impressed with the programs being carried out and the co-ordination that is evident among government departments and the provinces concerned. This is very important. Last year we visited the Inland Waters Centre at Burlington where a program in respect of inland waters is being carried on. The third one, which is in the making, will be in Victoria, British Columbia.

[Mr. Hopkins.]

I compliment our scientists and others who are working on these various programs. Parliament should understand that if we want these people to do the job in the future, we must provide them with the necessary facilities and funds.

I congratulate the minister and the Parliamentary Secretary on piloting this legislation through the House. I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for his co-operation in attending the committee hearings when the minister was unable to attend. I thank all members of the committee. As chairman of the committee I found it a very challenging and educational experience.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on that note I believe the House would agree to call it six o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

● (8:10 p.m.)

TERRITORIAL SEA AND FISHING ZONES ACT
PROVISION OF TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, ELIMINATION OF CONTIGUOUS FISHING ZONES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-203, to amend the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Prior to recognizing the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland), who I understand is prepared to move the motion in the name of the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), I must point out that I have some very grave doubts