

*Fisheries Act*

or not, in any water frequented by fish, or that flows into such water, nor on ice over either such waters.

Although this subsection is being deleted, the truth of the matter is that it has never been enforced. If it had been enforced, our lakes in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, especially Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River, would not now be seriously polluted.

I raise this point since the words in the bill, though somewhat different from the subsection being deleted, imply the same thing. Obviously, regulations are useless unless they are enforced. I ask the minister whether this law will be on the books but not enforced, as was the previous regulation. I ask him, through you, Mr. Speaker, what steps he has taken to strengthen the inspection and the enforcement section of his department?

A moment ago I mentioned my concern over the exemption clauses of this bill and I read into the record the new prohibition on the deposit of waste. I believe my concern over these exemption clauses is valid since I read on page 2 of the bill that the prohibition clause on waste does not apply—and I emphasize this—in the case of any waters that form part of a water quality management area designated pursuant to the Canada Water Act. It does not apply where there is a water board established which has licensed the deposit of waste as authorized by regulations made by the Governor in Council. Neither does it apply in the case of any water or waters to which the Northern Inland Waters Act applies.

In other words, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) can issue a licence to pollute under controlled conditions in all of Canada, with the exception of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, and he can do this pursuant to the Canada Water Act. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) can do the same thing in the Yukon and Northwest Territories pursuant to the Northern Inland Waters Act. By this fragmentation of authority, this placing of pollution control in Canada not under one, or under two, but under three federal ministers of the crown, I submit that the government has not only confused industry and the Canadian people but has also made enforcement of our pollution control measures next to impossible.

In addition, we have existing provisions in the Canada Shipping Act for pollution control, and the transport minister has indicated in

this House that he plans to strengthen them. As a Canadian, I cannot help but wonder why the government follows this course in such a serious matter, one which is of vital importance to our future well being. I submit that this fragmentation of authority on this important matter is brought about by the unrest within the present federal cabinet and it indicates the jockeying over on that side of the House within the cabinet for political authority. We have four captains on the bridge, four captains who are trying to run the ship. I should like to ask which direction they will take.

This government is obviously willing to sacrifice adequate pollution control methods for the nation in order to appease the vanity of the three or four cabinet ministers who believe that they, and they alone, should have the final say on pollution control since it is the new "in-thing" in Canada. Everybody is talking pollution, so say these ministers, and therefore they believe that their departments should have final responsibility for pollution control. It is almost as though these ministers have said: Never mind about the interests of the Canadian public; let us use pollution control to enhance our own political image in the newspapers, on radio and on television.

Just what has been done? We have these other acts set up, namely the Canada Water Act and the Northern Inland Waters Act, and in my view they are nothing more than window dressing which will hamper and delay the implementation of real pollution controls in Canada. I do not believe that the Canada Water Act will work. I believe it is a fraud perpetrated on the Canadian people. It is a mirage. It is something that you see, something that indicates that the government plans to do something, but when the Canadian people reach out to use the Canada Water Act it fades, as do all mirages.

The act cannot work because its provisions have been fragmented; the authority it gives has been divided between the federal and provincial governments. Even the name "water authorities" is misleading since these bodies will not really be authorities with federal funds provided to assist in establishing pollution controls among municipalities. In fact, we now know from the terms of the bill presently before us that these water authorities will be a hindrance rather than a help since they are empowered to issue licences to pollute, which in effect makes pollution control under the Fisheries Act impossible.