

*Supply**[Translation]*

I therefore conclude by saying that the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Agreement should, and not could, apply also to the St. Lawrence River.

[English]

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) made some comments which I certainly share since my constituents also occupy an area along the St. Lawrence River. We are quite concerned about the pollutants in the Great Lakes system and how they affect the St. Lawrence River. This concern relates to the efforts of one of my constituents, Mr. George Williamson of 1603 Princess Street in Cornwall.

There are something in the order of 500 to 1,000 man-made chemicals which are discharged into the Great Lakes system. We must be concerned about these pollutants. As an individual, Mr. Williamson has certainly made an effort to do something about the pollution of our waters. It is something in which all people can participate, Governments included.

The Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques mentioned that sewers empty into the St. Lawrence River and into the Great Lakes system. The efforts of municipal and provincial Governments, as well as those of the federal Government, are required to do something about these pollutants.

Mr. Williamson of 1603 Princess Street in Cornwall has developed a \$30-product which will clean sink drains without the use of chemicals. The product uses only pure, clear water in a pressurized system which is adaptable to all faucets. There are no chemicals, there is no mess, there is no danger, there are no plumbing bills. It is something that can be used in all homes, in industry or in Government offices.

● (1640)

Mr. Williamson of 1603 Princess Street in Cornwall will certainly be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in contributing to elimination of toxic chemicals which are in such common usage in drain cleaners. Would the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques be interested in using this product?

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for Stormont—Dundas (Mr. Warner) is offering me a sample of the product in question, I would be glad to try it. As I said earlier, there are more than two million people in the Montreal area, so it does not take much from each individual to make a river absolutely polluted. A good many of the sewers are now cleaned up because there is a plant in Montreal, but the problem is not entirely over. It will take two more years before all the sewage is treated before being returned to the river. Meanwhile, we could be using this product of Mr. Williamson.

I believe that a good part of the Hon. Member's riding would fall within the area which is under the jurisdiction of the Great Lakes Agreement. His area can benefit from all the expertise and funding of this joint international organization

whereas we in Montreal are on the outside. That is why I have been pleading that the area covered by this international agreement be extended to Montreal or even to Quebec City. The St. Lawrence River has to carry all the stuff that is dumped into the Great Lakes.

Unfortunately, if we want to solve the problem in Montreal, we have to buy Mr. Williamson's product on our own. We are not subsidized to do that, though I am willing to try it. However, in the Hon. Member's area, he can use Mr. Williamson's product, but he can also use all the services of the joint commission, something which I cannot do.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in this House to support the motion of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia).

[English]

I did not anticipate this opportunity but I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I welcome it very much.

The specific subject matter of the motion dealing with the Great Lakes, the St. Clair River and of course the St. Lawrence River is of particular significance to me as it is to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault), who, like me, represents a riding in the great City of Montreal. I will return to that subject in several minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, but I would like to point out that the Lachine Canal, which has extraordinary recreational potential for the city of Montreal, is also located in my constituency. That canal is so badly polluted that even canoes have been banned.

[English]

You can see, Mr. Speaker, that I have a personal interest in this matter on behalf of my constituents and the residents of the City of Montreal.

Before I deal with the specific motion, I would like to place it in a larger, global context. Those of us who have been following the environmental debate around this planet realize that our biosphere is truly in peril. As particular environmental problems reach crisis proportions in one country and another, those nations feel compelled to act. However, it has been a slow process and of course the essence of the motion put by my colleague serves to illustrate some of the problems that occur in environmental policy when different nation-states are involved.

Nations have always been slow to get into gear. Polluters are not often quickly detected. Only recently, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) fingered five major polluters of the St. Lawrence. However, polluters are not always easy to detect and they are not all located within the boundaries of the country suffering the effects of pollution. What better example