

Water Resources

programs. The agency would also be responsible for the development of a national pollution abatement policy.

To these areas of responsibility should also be added that of providing emergency information and assistance. If the federal government were to keep abreast of the technological means of combating pollution or, better still, providing leadership in pollution control research, such an information centre would be of great assistance in emergency situations. Experience gained from one emergency situation could be applied with possible modifications to a similar emergency situation. Some even advocate a department of environmental control. This might not be a bad idea, because at the present time every department is concerned with pollution and not one is really getting at the root of the problem. The Minister of Fisheries has already stated plainly that his department could have introduced legislation to update the existing legislation in order to provide effective water pollution control.

This new legislation could have attacked the whole problem of pollution. Recently a new and as yet unpatented method of dealing with oil pollution was implemented to correct a threat of crude oil pollution in Israel. This was considered to amount to a breakthrough in pollution control. I think it saved the Jordan River and even the Sea of Galilee from contamination. Pollution is a global problem as well as a national one, and valuable information could be gained from foreign experience. Such information should be acquired, kept on file and made easily accessible to parties concerned. This is one way in which a Canadian pollution abatement commission could operate, thereby affording some co-ordination to the present hit-and-run tactics in fighting pollution.

● (5:50 p.m.)

I hope hon. members will consider the suggestions I have made along with others which have been made in earlier debates. There appear to be many loopholes in this bill. It is far too complicated. Since hon. members can read, I shall not repeat the points raised during the incomplete debate which took place on the subject before the Christmas recess. There are many areas which could, of course, be dealt with now and perhaps I ought to refresh the memories of hon. members with regard to them. Nevertheless, I shall end my remarks within a few moments.

As I say, the bill is much too complicated. It will involve far too much red tape and its machinery will take a long time to become effective in controlling water pollution. For example, the setting up of all these agencies is bound to take a long time and no one knows how long it will be before effective action results. I shall conclude by adopting everything said so far by my hon. friends, particularly my hon. friend from Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken), when he replied to the minister after the bill had been introduced. In raising our objection to this bill I move, seconded by my hon. friend from Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave):

That all the words after "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"since it does not spell out, declare or assume a federal jurisdiction in pollution control matters; since no specific commitment of federal funds has been made; and since provision for establishment of water use standards, pollution offences, and penalties are not nationwide but are limited to water quality management areas, this bill is therefore ineffective as a basis for a national water pollution control program and the minister is directed by the House to redraft Bill C-144 to include these and other fundamental omissions before it is read a second time."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Perhaps I might simply read the amendment rather than put it to the House, because I must confess I have grave doubts as to its admissibility. I would prefer to consult Mr. Speaker on the point, but for the benefit of the House I shall read it so that it may be clear on the record.

It is moved by Mr. Comeau, seconded by Mr. McCleave:

That all the words after "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"since it does not spell out, declare or assume a federal jurisdiction in pollution control matters; since no specific commitment of federal funds has been made; and since provision for establishment of water use standards, pollution offences, and penalties are not nationwide but are limited to water quality management areas, this bill is therefore ineffective as a basis for a national water pollution control program and the minister is directed by the House to redraft Bill C-144 to include these and other fundamental omissions before it is read a second time."

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order to raise as to the propriety of the amendment. I could commence argument now, or call it six o'clock. In any case, I wish to inform the Chair that I have an objection to the form and nature of the amendment and suggest it is not in accordance with the rules of the House.