

*Air Pollution*

ambient air quality standards, effective regulations and adequate enforcement agencies. To date I know of no authority in Canada which deals with interprovincial air pollution problems. That is why there is a wide variation in air pollution legislation and enforcement across this country. To date, Ontario has the most comprehensive air pollution program, as contained in the air pollution control act of 1967. The other provinces are said by experts to have inadequate air pollution control measures and legislation. The United States has a federal clean air act.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but his time has expired.

[*English*]

**Mr. Baldwin:** Carry on.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Don't talk it out.

**Mr. Haidasz:** I thank hon. members for permission to continue. Other countries, such as West Germany, Poland and the U.S.S.R. are far advanced in the task of setting ambient air quality standards, control regulations and means of enforcement.

• (5:20 p.m.)

In the spring of 1967 the United States public health service took the initiative of publishing a document entitled "Air Quality Criteria For Sulphur Dioxides", giving the levels at which its scientists believe sulphur compounds begin to harm health and pollute the environment. Unfortunately we in Canada do not have adequate financial support and sufficient scientific personnel to study thoroughly national ambient air quality standards. However, for general guidance in this matter, the World Health Organization has issued an expert report on atmospheric pollutants. This report has been available since 1964. Mr. W. B. Drowley, Chairman of the Canadian Standards Association Committee on Air Pollution and director of the air pollution control program in Ontario, stated in an address at a conference in Montreal in 1966 that the government of Canada should place a co-ordinating policy in the hands of one agency or department to avoid duplication and fragmentation of effort.

[*Mr. Haidasz.*]

In Bill C-22 I am proposing that parliament grant the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro), as soon as possible, powers to deal effectively with certain aspects of air pollution that are under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The bill states that air pollution means the detectable presence in the outdoor atmosphere of any air contaminant or contaminants in amounts that may cause damage or discomfort to the health of persons, that may cause damage to animal life, produce injury to vegetation, damage physical property, interfere with visibility or the normal conduct of transportation, occupation or business.

In its efforts to control air pollution in Canada, the federal government should also consider the establishment of a special department under a minister. This department could be called the department of urban and environmental affairs or even housing and environmental affairs. Such a decision may be required in the near future if it is found necessary to concentrate in one department all the problems of urban development and urban transportation, as well as the pollution of air, water and soil. Furthermore, I urge the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) to grant liberal tax incentives to private citizens and industry who would install anti-air pollution devices and use clean fuels.

It is most urgent to attack vigorously the problem of air pollution in Canada before it is too late. I believe this bill will assist in abating air pollution in our country and help to ensure better health and a higher quality of life for all our citizens. The order paper of the House of Commons today reads that this bill, if given second reading, will be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs. I have noted that on the order paper there are also bills standing in the name of other hon. members which have reference to other aspects of air pollution. It may be the wish of hon. members to refer the subject matter of my bill as well as the bills of the other hon. members to the appropriate standing committee of the House of Commons.

Air pollution is not only a vital matter, Mr. Speaker, but also an urgent problem in Canada today. It is often stated that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. I hope that we in this House of Commons will follow this wise and prudent admonition.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** I will not take any more time, Mr. Speaker, than it will take the clock to reach half past five. We in