

*Criminal Code*

of a capital district would be frustrated if the pollution of this great water resource were allowed to continue unabated. Raw sewage and industrial wastes are dumped into the stream without control and with alarming results.

What troubles me, and what convinces me that the time for firm, resolute action has arrived is that the final report of the earlier joint committee, which was presented to this house on August 1, 1944, contained a very similar recommendation. Hon. gentlemen who are interested in the terms of that report will find it reproduced at page 68 of the federal district commission brief as presented on March 21 of 1956.

I venture to submit to the house that for too long there has been a policy of drift, a policy of ignoring the problem, or perhaps a policy of hoping, Micawber-like, that something would turn up. Year after year at least in this area the problem has intensified and I confess that I do not believe that any public bodies, least of all this parliament, have taken the type of action required to control the problem.

It is because my hon. friend's proposal is a drastic one that I support it. It may be shock treatment, but coupled with the other action which I will advocate, I submit it would be effective to restore the waters with which the Creator endowed us, to safe use by all the people.

Earlier I mentioned that the pulp and paper industry, including the two mills on the other shore of this river, through the pulp and paper research institute of Canada, had spent large sums of money in research designed to reduce or eliminate the contaminating effect of their immense quantities of industrial waste. For their work, I think they deserve the highest commendation. Their experimental work has reached the stage where it may represent a technical breakthrough in research to dispose of simply, safely and economically both domestic and industrial effluents.

The practicality of the treatment of sanitary sewage by a new technique, called atomized suspension technique or briefly AST, was demonstrated last year. I have before me the pamphlet containing the material placed before a demonstration conference held on September 26, 1957 under the auspices of the pulp and paper research institute of Canada on the subject of "Treatment of sanitary sewage with the atomized suspension technique". I quote briefly from the foreword of this report as follows:

On July 30, 1957, the technical feasibility of destroying settled raw sludge in a few seconds, under atmospheric pressure and continuously was accomplished in equipment designed and built by the institute. Since then, intensive studies have

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

shown the reproducibility of the results, the flexibility of the process and its suitability for use right in the heart of a community.

The time has therefore come when other parties should become acquainted with the method, the equipment and the results, so that trials at a municipal scale can go forward to study the economics and technology of continuous day-in-day-out operation.

Urgency of the pollution problem—

And this, I would point out, Mr. Speaker, is the pulp and paper industry itself speaking.

—is such that many trials should be conducted simultaneously. Our countries cannot afford the time for one company or one community leisurely to prove the case for all others. Moreover, circumstances differ so markedly from one community to another that simultaneous trials of several variants of the method would seem to be indicated.

Then finally the foreword goes on to say this:

Success in using AST for dealing with sanitary sludges suggests the strong possibility of using it also with other organic sludges such as are produced by fish canneries, petroleum refineries, meat packing plants, etc. These are the reasons why our industry—

That is the pulp and paper industry.

—having spent nearly a million dollars already on development of AST, and still spending more on pulpmill applications, was willing to have us look into the possibilities in these other areas.

To the preparation of this report and to the preparation of the basic material I believe the federal government, through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, has made a substantial contribution.

To others with greater capacity for understanding the technology of this new experimental process, and greater capacity for converting the explanation of such technology to simple lay terms, I leave further discussion of AST or atomized suspension technique.

My purpose in raising the matter is to suggest to the government the provision of greatly increased amounts for research in this field. If, as appears possible, AST is a scientific breakthrough, its full import should be pursued with the greatest possible expedition and effectiveness. To this end I am sure that this parliament would have no reluctance in voting the necessary funds.

There is another field of research which offers considerable possibility for the relief of our streams and that is the treatment of sanitary sewage by means of lagooning. From a start five or six years ago in North Dakota of the use of sewage lagoons, these lagoons in western Canada have now become not uncommon and doubtless there are some hon. gentlemen in the house who are fully familiar with this method. I believe, for example, plans are being prepared for an installation at Swift Current to serve a population of