

We in our province are very aware that other countries have found the way to our door and are beginning to take from our shores our treasures, our minerals, our wood and other commodities.

We are afraid that our water power and other resources may be taken away entirely. This may be good from the standpoint of international trade, but from the standpoint of planning a future for those who will come after us we must make sure we do not destroy in the short run our whole heritage and the possibility of a good environment for those who follow us.

Parts of Canada are among the world's best potential holiday spots. I have been told that in my own province tourism is the second largest industry and I have no doubt that such is the case in some of the maritime provinces. We must take great care to make sure that this remains the situation. I am glad to see that some of my hon. friends know what a treasure house and holiday spot we have, and it is indeed a beautiful place.

We are anxious to see the establishment of an environmental council without delay, because we think we badly need a non-partisan body which would represent all the sections of the community. Only when we get a widely representative body of that kind will it be possible to get action on these environmental problems.

It has been pointed out today that the minister is handicapped and that he should be in charge of environment and nothing else. He has under his jurisdiction forestry and fisheries, and these often come into conflict with the environment. In our province, the big forest industries and the environment do not always march in the same happy direction and often one does not progress without the destruction of the other. The minister is in the position of being subject to sectional interests in a way that he should not be.

Our main reasons for wanting the establishment of an environmental council are so that the minister can be free of conflicts of interest, so that the council can represent the interests of the whole community, and to avoid the federal government's regrettable habit of using the taxpayers' money to pay for reports and studies and then sitting on them as though they were its own private property. If the public is to protect the environment it must know the facts, and both this government and the provincial government—at least the one with which I am familiar—have the regrettable tendency of trying to keep the facts away from the public because it might be embarrassing if the public were to use them. An environmental council would avoid that sort of thing. Those are the reasons we want this council.

Secondly, we believe firmly that national standards should be set for water and air quality and that the only place to set those standards is here in the federal parliament under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Environment. Some time ago we passed the Canada Water Act. Some of us were on that committee and discovered that all this water basin business looks beautiful, but only on paper. It has become pure rhetoric and is now a speciman for a museum: it is not real, Mr. Speaker. Not one water basin area has been set up. We pointed out that it would not work and that the only thing that would work would be to have the Minister of the Environment (Mr.

#### *Request for Environmental Council*

Davis) armed with national water quality standards for all parts of the country. The same thing should be true for air quality under the air pollution act.

• (2030)

When he spoke this afternoon, the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Deachman) catalogued legislation passed by this government. It is one thing to pass legislation and it is another to have that legislation take effect. I wondered where his eyesight was when he said that this legislation was protecting all the major rivers in Canada. He knows the Fraser River as well as I do, perhaps even better. I hope the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra is not going away, though I imagine he has had a phone call. I am sorry he has to go, Mr. Speaker, because I was going to say that he can see the Fraser as well as I can and he knows that we could almost expect the second miracle of walking on the water without any danger of sinking in the places where it is so highly polluted.

I still remember fisherman Buck Suzuki of the fishermen's union pointing out that they have to use gloves when they fish for salmon in the Fraser River because of the raw sewage which endangers their health. He also indicated that he hated to think of the citizens of Vancouver and elsewhere eating fish that had been nurtured on raw human sewage. These rivers are not clean and to shut our eyes to the fact that they are in such a state of filth is to shut our eyes to reality. The only way to clean up our rivers is to provide enough low interest loans to municipalities that they can build sewage treatment plants. This must be done.

I wish the federal minister would have a good, strong discussion with the provincial minister and get him to see that the Moran dam must not be built. It will kill fish and destroy life in large stretches of the river and surrounding areas. This dam should not be built on the Fraser River if we are considering the protection of our ecology. This government alone, or even in concert with provincial and municipal governments, cannot protect and police the ecology. We must have citizen help. This afternoon one hon. member showed us the international scene and another talked about the Stockholm conference on the environment. Now I am going to turn to the small end of the telescope and use a list that was published in the "Canadian Conservationist—Winter 1972." This is what was said to the ordinary citizen under the heading "Live Econscientiously!", which is "consciously in face of the environment."

**An hon. Member:** How do you spell it?

**Mrs. MacInnis:** I shall not spell it now because it would take up all my time. The article begins with these words: Sharing the environment means sharing the responsibility to keep it livable—today and tomorrow. We are not the earth's owners, but her guests. Conservation means doing your duty by doing your share:

Here are the points. Get ready for number one because I warn you this is going to throw you:

1. Limit your family to two children. If you want more: adopt.

I am wrong. It will not throw you gentlemen because most of you are past being able to do anything about that.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!