

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

that assurances be given that the control processes and procedures will be maintained and policed.

Finally, the National Harbours Board should enunciate a policy prohibiting pollutant causing industries from establishing in highly populated areas like the lower mainland harbour area of British Columbia. In the world of 1969 the cost of business should include the cost of protecting our environment from pollution in all of its forms, and the credo applied to industry should be "clean up, or shut down".

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am in complete sympathy with the views expressed by the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault), all the more so because I have a personal knowledge of the area in question having visited it just last weekend. I want to thank the hon. member for his kind words with regard to the decision taken following that visit by the National Harbours Board at my instigation to cease the burning of so-called harbour cleanings in the north Vancouver area. I think this is a pretty clearcut indication that, where the authority is vested completely in the federal government, we are more than prepared, and certainly I give my full support to the best possible anti-pollution devices.

As for the question of the coal deposits at the Neptune pier, I suppose the hon. member would probably be inclined to agree with me that this is one of those issues where it is rather difficult to measure the advantages of industry and development against some of the possible disadvantages. But I agree with him fully that there is no good reason why, under all of the circumstances that exist today and the techniques that are available, the entry of a new bulk loading industry into North Vancouver, into that general and quite impressive industrial area, should create either a hazard or a pollution nuisance for the residents of that region.

The fact of the matter is that in cases like this—and I am thinking specifically of the Neptune pier—the National Harbours Board has followed the same procedures as it adopts with regard to all these facilities throughout Canada. Any lessee or user is required to abide by all the civic by-laws which apply in the area. I need not point out to the hon. member that regulations of this nature fall within the municipal or, perhaps, within the provincial field, but to ensure there is no flagrant disregard of pollution devices or

[Mr. Perrault.]

regulations the Harbours Board does insist that these local regulations be adhered to. This has been the position in the case of Neptune. It was so during the whole of the construction period as far as I am aware, and the Neptune company was so advised, as was the city council concerned. They worked in concert during that period and to my knowledge no major objections were raised at that time.

However, I appreciate that all this may be regarded as constituting an evasion of the actual facts of the case. There is no point trying to tell residents who are threatened by pollution that it is all being done in the proper constitutional manner. I am well aware of this and I want to assure the hon. member that as far as the Harbours Board is concerned we shall ensure that the local by-laws are adhered to. Moreover, when some of the residents of that community who are concerned about this matter are in Ottawa, as they will be I believe on June 4, arrangements have been made for them to meet with representatives of the National Harbours Board so that they may get all the information which is available concerning this problem.

On the specific point, to conclude—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I regret to interrupt the hon. minister but his time has expired.

WATER RESOURCES—PLACENTIA BAY, NFLD.—
ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER AT MEETING
TO DISCUSS POLLUTION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): The story of the pollution of Long Harbour is common knowledge in this house. I am sure all hon. members are well aware of what has been happening there in the last few months. I am afraid the same cannot be said about the severe hardship faced by those directly affected by this pollution, or the uncertainty which has crept into their lives especially as the waters in which they and their forefathers have fished for generations have been closed by the Department of Fisheries.

On January 29 of this year I directed a question to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) as follows:

I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether he can inform the house what steps are being taken to investigate evidence of a serious pollution problem in waters around Long Harbour, Newfoundland, where a quantity of dead fish have been found floating near the beaches.