

Mr. Teillet: Mr. Chairman, I understood the house may be disposed to deal with these estimates tonight and I wonder if we might consider that idea. This was my understanding. Perhaps I am mistaken, but I thought if the house were disposed to sit a little longer so as to deal with these estimates it would help the work of the house. Of course, I leave it up to the house.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Does the house wish to give unanimous consent to sitting longer?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, no one has any idea how many hon. members may wish to speak. I notice there are two or three members rising on the government side. I think we have done a good day's work today and possibly we should call it ten o'clock at this time.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the government house leader what are the government's intentions concerning business of the house for tomorrow, and possibly Wednesday so that we can plan our work.

Mr. MacEachen: Tomorrow we will take second reading and committee stage of the bills which resulted from the passage of the resolution on the C.N.R. financing and manpower advisory boards. We will take the manpower and immigration advisory boards bill first and the C.N.R. financing bill second. If we complete these tomorrow at any stage, we will continue with the estimates of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If we complete that, we will take the Department of the Registrar General. I hope that on Wednesday we will begin with one of the resolutions that will be available then. There are three or four resolutions that will be available, one dealing with the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, another with the Post Office Act, especially rates, and another with the establishment of the department of corporate and consumer affairs. I hope that the rest of the week will be filled with the consideration of these resolutions.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

27053—157½

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion WATER RESOURCES—OTTAWA RIVER— REQUEST FOR POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, a few days before we adjourned for the summer recess I attempted on orders of the day to bring to the attention of the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible for affairs in the national capital area, the condition of the Ottawa river with regard to water pollution. Mr. Speaker ruled at that time that the question was not one which was appropriate for discussion on orders of the day and this is the first opportunity I have had to raise the matter again.

However, I should say that a few days after I tried to raise the question in the house on orders of the day I said a few words on a local radio station on this same issue, the pollution of the Ottawa river. Within three days I had received more than 360 letters from people in this area urging that some action be taken by any level of government to end the very serious pollution which existed then, and which I believe still exists, in the national capital area. All of the letters urged that it was needful from the point of view of health and welfare and the prestige of our national capital for some real and immediate action to be taken by a senior level of government.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the federal government has acted to encourage the Quebec and Ontario governments to study this very serious local situation of water pollution in the Ottawa river. I also understand that in some other areas of our country the federal government has undertaken to spend large sums of money to help the authorities combat the singular problem of water pollution.

Water pollution and air pollution are, of course, matters far beyond the competence of any little local authority. I think that in this age it is obvious that these problems require very active, major and early action on the part of the more senior level of government in a planned and co-operative way with the local authorities.

In raising this question again tonight I have in mind the situation in that part of Canada from which I come, the lower mainland of British Columbia, where another major Canadian river flows, the Fraser river. In that area water pollution is also a very serious problem; the Fraser river is becoming almost an open sewer.

I should like to ask two questions tonight. First of all, what is the federal government