

Water Resources Programs

The grant is to allow the university to look into new techniques and methods of handling domestic and industrial waste which ultimately, after treatment, goes into our waterways.

The public is concerned about existing anti-pollution measures. The control of pollution will be a very expensive proposition. The public must be dedicated to the anti-pollution fight and we shall need to search for ways and means of raising the finances necessary to carry out this program. Earlier the minister mentioned that under the general philosophy of the bill, the polluter must pay. Municipalities such as the one I represent have for 50 years been spending money to prevent pollution, while other municipalities even up to the present have spent nothing at all.

The question of effluent fees has been debated at length both in committee and in the House. I certainly support this concept which will allow us to raise the necessary capital to pay for treatment plants and their operation. This approach has been used successfully in the Ruhr Valley and is being considered by many of our municipalities. I said that the bill is not a perfect bill, and the question of effluent fees may need to be clarified. I feel that fees collected ought to be put into a fund and used to provide the necessary treatment facilities. Used in conjunction with money available to the municipalities, that money will provide capital and operating funds for the treatment facilities which are necessary.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is a very important day. We are considering this piece of legislation for third reading. I certainly do not support many of the arguments of hon. members of the opposition who spoke before me.

Mr. Harding: Come on Keith.

Mr. Hymmen: People generally are agitated about the question of pollution. They are concerned and upset. Having read many paperbacks which portray the terrible future facing not only Canada but the rest of the world if pollution is not curbed, I am happy to see these anti-pollution measures involving water being adopted. I hope that during the next session we shall deal with air pollution and environmental pollution in general in order that we may provide a proper environment for generations to come.

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words before this bill finally passes. The committee sat for

weeks and months. As chairman of the committee, despite all the differences that occurred in the process of our 36 meetings—and sometimes those sessions were challenging indeed for the chair—I thank the committee members for the fine education they gave me during the past few weeks.

I wish to comment on one of the basic principles of the bill, namely, the river basin water management concept. In the latter days of April the federal Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) and the Ontario Minister of Lands and Forests made an announcement regarding pollution of the Ottawa River. It is anticipated that the Ottawa River will become one of the river basin management areas that are spelled out in the bill. In this House I specifically asked which part of the Ottawa River the ministers were referring to. The minister (Mr. Davis) is on record as saying that the polluted section was in the area between Ottawa and Hull and downstream. The news media carried the announcement but spoke about the Ottawa River in general being polluted. This information was carried by the news media across Canada. It was also carried by the news media on Canada's southern border and was picked up by networks in New York state and Ohio. The result was that the tourist industry in the Upper Ottawa Valley suffered a number of cancellations of summer registrations. Apparently people do not wish to come to these tourist resorts because they have heard that the Ottawa River is polluted. The news media carried the information in general terms only and did not specify those areas which were affected.

• (5:40 p.m.)

My main reason for speaking today is to point out to the news media the great damage that was done to the tourist industry in the Ottawa Valley, particularly in my own area. I hope this will be corrected by the news media, particularly as it relates to New York state and other bordering American states. This river basin project is important. This is the point I have been making. Under the river basin management concept these waters will be checked on a continuing basis. There will not be a sudden flare-up with a river basin being polluted. It will not be necessary to stop fishing until it is checked. The important river basins covered under this act will be under constant study. This is very important.