

*Water Resources Programs*

institutions will seriously affect the operation of the laundry equipment and the cleanliness of the materials that are being washed. These are subjects that have not yet been discussed, and yet we are talking about limiting or banning phosphates within a few months. That is why I thought it essential to write into this bill a provision requiring consultation across the board before the regulations are passed.

I took out the words "federal departments" on the minister's undertaking that he will consult his colleagues and that the matters will be discussed in cabinet. What we have left in the amendment is the provision that the minister, before making these regulations, should give notice to the provincial governments. He should "give notice to representatives of industries directly affected", and to "such organizations of citizens as the minister deems appropriate". There was also a slight amount of objection in the committee to this part of my amendment. It was said that this is the sort of thing which just is not done, that "we consult as far as we think we should consult, and that is it. We do not think there should be a prescription in this bill saying we have to consult. We know how to do our job." Mr. Speaker, I do not think they do. I do not think any one department, any one minister, any one government official, or any group in any one department knows the impact of the regulations on the economy.

• (4:40 p.m.)

I do not think that the experience we have had in connection with the introduction and promotion of the Canada Water Act gives us any confidence that there will be broad consultation. A very excellent example is the questions that I asked this afternoon of the minister. We have had a report by the International Joint Commission on pollution of the Great Lakes. We should all be working together on it. The Canadian federal government, the U.S. federal government, eight American states and the province of Ontario are all involved. So, what should we be doing? We should be meeting this problem together. But what has happened?

The first meeting was at the federal level, when the U.S. government officials discussed the IJC report with Canadian government officials without any provincial representatives being invited. Last week the minister told me that he intended to invite provincial representatives at some later stage. Immediately after that the province of Ontario decided it should discuss the same problem with

the governors of the eight American states bordering the Great Lakes. A meeting was to have been held in June, but unfortunately two of the American states did not respond to the invitation, nor did the federal government of Canada respond to the Ontario invitation to discuss a common approach. Where are we going? The federal governments are holding meetings without the provincial people being present, and the provincial governments are holding meetings without the federal government people being present.

The conference called by the province of Ontario is now being put off until September. A morning newspaper reported today that two of the states, which received invitations by telephone, asked where Ontario is. This certainly indicates the serious necessity for some consultation and joint effort. If we do not write this provision into the statute the federal department will not consult with the provinces unless it feels like doing so. It will not consult the provincial governments or anybody else before passing the regulations. I think it is essential, therefore, that we write into the bill a provision that before regulations banning or reducing phosphates are passed, the federal department must first consult the provincial governments.

Secondly, I suggest that the department should consult representatives of any industries directly affected. It may be that these industries will not agree with the regulations that the government intends to put forward, but that is no reason for not consulting them. In the final analysis the Governor in Council makes the regulations, and it has no excuse for not consulting the industries.

Finally, I have asked that the government consult with such organizations of citizens as the minister deems appropriate. There are a lot of citizens' organizations seriously concerned and doing serious studies on pollution problems in various fields. They should be notified that regulations are about to be passed, and they should be provided with copies of the proposed regulations so that they may comment on them. This is my factual presentation. Consultation is necessary if you are to have regulations that are going to be accepted. They must be accepted if they are necessary. As the Parliamentary Secretary said a few minutes ago, many housewives are prepared to accept regulations and controls if they help control pollution. But you have to have understanding and acceptance before you can get co-operation. On the