

they are sources of pollution. Who would have thought this possible only ten years ago?

I have on hand a booklet dealing with the concern of the pulp and paper industry over water pollution. It is an article written by Mr. Robert Snorton about a conference held in Washington on October 23 and 24, 1969, under the auspices of the United States Department of the Interior. If the industries that have been the worst offenders with regard to the pollution of our rivers and waterways are worried, the time has come for them to participate in the fight against water pollution, first of all by modifying their plants and by putting a stop to their dumping of waste in waterways.

A few weeks ago, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) and myself asked questions in the House about mercury pollution in James Bay. We believe that pulp and paper mills in Quebec and in Ontario dump their waste in the rivers flowing into James Bay. As a result, the hunting of white whale was forbidden there last year, because mercury pollution exceeded the rate acceptable for consumption.

The directors of pulp and paper industries, not only in Northern Quebec and Northern Ontario, but across Canada, should take steps to put a stop to the pollution

● (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, the recent examples of Dow Chemical, Wyandotte Chemicals, CIL and ALCAN which admitted having discharged mercury into the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence shows the tragic importance taken by industrial pollution.

We are now being told that those industries do not want to take the responsibility for correcting this situation. According to the Quebec Water Board, 140 gallons of water are required to produce one barrel of oil, 20,000 gallons of water for a ton of paper, 450 gallons for a barrel of beer. It takes 100 gallons of water to produce one gallon of alcohol.

In a white paper published in February 1970, the Water Board estimates that 80 per cent of water pollution results from industrial activity. A paper mill which produces 1,000 tons of pulp a day consumes as much oxygen as a town with a population of 250,000 people.

These industries use up an enormous quantity of water to produce beer, oil or pulp and our resources are limited, although we have believed for a long time that they were not. We are being told that only 3 per cent of all water available in the world is fresh water and that two-thirds of this fresh water is frozen at the poles.

For these reasons, we should not waste our freshwater resources even if we consider our low level of pollution, our relatively low population and the number of lakes and rivers in Canada.

I think that it is not only up to governments to use the taxpayers' money to fight pollution but also our biggest industries which contributed so much to our water pollution should share in this effort.

I was appalled yesterday when I read the statement made on January 26 by Mr. Arnold Hart, Chairman of the Bank of Montreal and I quote:

The Canadian people must be willing to forgo abundance so as to palliate the cost of pollution.

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

Mr. Speaker, the government is surely able to fight efficiently against pollution without having to deprive their citizens.

I suppose that, according to Mr. Hart's statement, the taxpayers will be asked to pay more taxes by the government, to provide for such an effort, but I do not think they should be deprived of the present abundance in order to pay for that. According to Mr. Hart, we have no other alternative than being poisoned or being starved to death.

There is no reason for us to die on account of that. Our institutions should be sufficiently organized and financed to fight successfully, without people having to suffer financially.

Among other things, Mr. Hart has this to say, and I quote:

—that is where the problem lies.

—any effort to combat pollution will result in economic restraints—

Such financiers fear so much lesser profits that they are anxious and frightened about the war on pollution.

Whether the bill is paid by our industries or our government, the consumer will bear the costs in the long run. The new Minister of the Environment should be smart enough to control this war on pollution, to prevent abuses, and exorbitant expenses leading nowhere. Besides, he should make sure that necessary legislation is introduced to put an end the pollution of our waterways.

I believe that industries should be required to treat sewage and smoke from their plants. New installations will be needed to reach such goals. New industries should be called upon to treat their sewage before returning it to nature, and also to adopt measures preventing air pollution.

Northern Ontario, especially Sudbury, has plentiful mineral resources, but nearing Sudbury, one is astonished by the view it offers. There is no need to set on an interplanetary trip to see what the moon is made of. A visit to the Sudbury region would give a notion of what the lunar landscape looks like. Air and water are so polluted that vegetal and, animal life is nonexistent. I am blaming both the Ontario and Ottawa authorities for having allowed this situation to develop around a city whose inhabitants should be permitted to lead a normal life.

● (5:50 p.m.)

Cities should also be compelled to treat their sewage. Surely there is some legislation allowing cities to borrow and benefit from incentives to build water filtration plants; some of them did it but many others, in spite of government legislation and of certain incentives, have not been able to do it because their finances, their charter or their tax assessment did not enable them to raise sufficient capital to undertake such schemes.

As for shipping, our laws have not been enforced with sufficient severity. I know there is legislation which forbids ships operating in our rivers, our lakes, or close to our coasts to discharge oil, but the fine is so small that they find it more economical to dump oil into the St.