

Criminal Code

were put on the record today indicated his full agreement with the measure before us, as did the hon. member for Carleton; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Stefanson), the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard), and the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Broome).

I would say, sir, in closing that with the more than adequate majority the government has at the present time, and considering the vital interest in this matter expressed by so many Conservatives, I should like to add my endorsement of this resolution and look forward to prompt action by the present government on this matter.

Mr. John Drysdale (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to the motion of the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Stefanson), I do so with a certain sense of urgency and an understanding of the importance of the matter so far as my riding is concerned. I am the representative of Burnaby-Richmond which is, in a sense, a split-up riding. The particular part of the riding to which I shall refer today is the Richmond part.

The municipality of Richmond consists largely of two islands, Lulu island and Sea island, both of which are surrounded by the mighty Fraser river. Other speakers before me have taken the opportunity of giving a general outline of general problems relating to water pollution. I would like to turn to a situation of immediate concern and which, to a large extent, has been created by our great neighbour the city of Vancouver. Perhaps in order to give you a little background on the problem, I should say that Sea island, on which the Vancouver international airport is located, is right at the mouth of the Fraser. The city of Vancouver is adjacent on the other side of the Fraser river, and between the two of them is a small island called Iona island.

This is a large, sandy island but the Vancouver and district joint sewage and drainage board have been able to persuade the provincial government to allocate this little island as the site for a primary sewage disposal plant for the city of Vancouver. The city of Vancouver, with a population of some 400,000, was warned early in 1913 in the Lea report, that as to English bay, which is a large recreational area, the sewage that was being dumped into this particular area was eventually going to cause a problem. They have had other reports including the Brown report, and one recently in 1957 by Brown and Caldwell. The effect of all these reports has been to keep the pollution out of English bay and to distribute it into some other area.

The question of expediency has arisen and of whether it is better for the 400,000 people of Vancouver to impede the future and the development of Richmond with a population of 28,000. At present it appears that expediency has prevailed. The pollution control board has granted a permit to the Vancouver district joint sewage and drainage board to establish this primary sewage treatment plant on Iona island. An appeal was made on Friday to the provincial cabinet. As yet I have not had the results of that particular appeal. That is the first matter of urgency.

In conjunction with the matter of pollution and tied in also indirectly with water pollution, is this situation. The city of Vancouver has filled one of its garbage dumps completely and is now desirous of establishing a new garbage dump, and the location of course is in the municipality of Richmond on the western tip of Sea island. They have had, shall I say, the semantic sense to describe the stuff they are intending to dispose of at the end of the island as "sanitary fill" but despite that description, to anybody looking at it, it just looks like a garbage dump. I raise that problem because this sanitary fill or garbage dump is right at the mouth of the Fraser river and would be in a sense used to enlarge that particular area.

The garbage dump on Kerr street which I have had the fortunate pleasure of passing several times is rather an interesting picture. It is interesting from the viewpoint of the thousands of seagulls that continuously hover over this particular dump. The city of Vancouver has had the excellent idea of establishing a dump on Sea island right at the end of the airport runway, something which would make it rather interesting for the pilots in trying to manoeuvre through a flock of seagulls. The desire to move the garbage dump to Sea island, has, I think, to a large extent been promoted by the sheer consideration of having to invest a considerable amount of money. It would cost the city \$3 million to establish an incinerator and some \$200,000 only to maintain the dump. So the city fathers, in their great spirit of benevolence, have offered to the municipality of Richmond \$100,000 annually for the next 20 years in order to give the city of Vancouver the right to dump its garbage at the end of Sea island.

This is the second matter of urgency because tonight in the municipality of Richmond the city fathers will congregate and make the decision whether they will take up Vancouver's very kind offer and so affect the whole development of Richmond or whether they will reject that offer. I sympathize with them in being called upon to