

*Water Resources Programs*

ward an amendment which would have provided that before water could be exported from this country, the matter would have to come before Parliament. That amendment was thrown out. And here we are, dealing with the Canada Water Act, yet we were not allowed to bring in an amendment which would allow Parliament to scrutinize the export of water. This is where such matters ought to be examined, so that the elected representatives of the people can debate the pros and cons of any water export policy which the government may wish to introduce.

Another weakness in the bill is that it does not provide for a national fund to be used in fighting pollution. True, we were able to persuade the government to amend a number of clauses. The government accepted a number of amendments moved by the opposition members and other members of the committee, and they strengthened the bill considerably. Yet one of its major weaknesses is that it provides for no clearcut federal financial assistance to the numerous levels of government involved in fighting pollution. Oh, yes, there are clauses dealing with this matter. One clause providing for loans to water quality management areas was brought in at the last minute because of pressure, mainly by opposition members. The government, in its wisdom, finally accepted our suggestions. But the bill is still weak. The federal government has no choice but to invest vast amounts of money if it wants to clean up pollution. I say that because the municipalities and provinces do not have the kind of money that is required to do this job. Until we are prepared to pump far more money than in the past into programs devoted to fighting pollution, the fight against pollution will not get off the ground.

We approve the part that has been added to the bill relating to phosphates. The government wishes to reduce the percentage of phosphate in detergents and ultimately almost ban their use, for the simple reason that eutrophication of some of the Great Lakes is going on at a rapid pace. Scientists have warned us that unless we act quickly, Lake Erie within a short period will be hurt beyond recovery. We pressed vigorously for the inclusion in the bill of the phosphate section. I point out to hon. members that there was no reference to phosphates in the bill we are currently debating until pressure was brought to bear in committee, and the government in its wisdom decided to bring in the phosphate provisions. Originally, it had no intention of including them in the bill. This,

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again, shows the value of our long and tough committee sessions and of the pressure which was brought to bear on the government by people all across Canada and by those who presented briefs to us.

May I mention one more point before closing? It seems to me that most nations in the world, including our own, have been most foolish in their over-all planning of resource development. Unquestionably, we have allowed resources to be developed for single purposes and very seldom have proper ecological studies as to the effects of the development been undertaken. Consequently, we are today reaping the whirlwind, if I may put it that way, resulting from our foolish methods over the years in resource development. The time is long overdue for all of us to insist on proper ecological studies and surveys being made before certain types of resource development are undertaken. This applies particularly to water. In the past we have built dams in all parts of our country without clearing the basins first, the result being that we have destroyed spawning grounds and laid the foundation in those basins for pollution which will last forever and a day. We permitted this type of development to go on because governments and individuals did not speak out against it. We only saw the need for more hydroelectric power, regardless of cost. People never looked at the tremendous cost that future generations would have to pay as the result of the damage done to our ecology.

There is an amendment that I wish to move at this stage. May I point out that the amendment I intend to move relates to a matter that was discussed in our committee and was brought before the House by the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works. I understand the report of that committee was a unanimous one. Unfortunately, the bill was brought in four or five days prior to this final report. When I tried to get this amendment on the Order Paper, it was ruled out of order because it had been brought in too late. This is the amendment I wish to place before the House. I move:

• (4:40 p.m.)

That Bill C-144, an act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be not read now but be referred back to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works with instructions to insert after clause 25 the following clause:

"26. Any person who has been convicted of an offence under section 25 shall thereby become liable