

*Environmental Council of Canada*

who incidentally sends his love, something not often sent to a Member of Parliament:

Will you please help me? Will you please stop pollution? Fish and other sea life are being killed. Try to find another way to drill for oil under water or stop. Thank you.

The whole statement is there and the minister and his staff could not find a more eloquent way of putting the problem. Lastly, a letter from Jeffrey Irving:

I know you are very busy but please try to find time to read my letter. Raw sewage is being dumped into our many lakes, rivers and oceans. This is not only polluting the water, it is killing our fish for eating. Not only for me but for many other people try to do something about it.

My hon. friend is trying to do something about it by proposing the establishment of an environmental council. I support his bill and commend him for bringing the matter to our attention.

[Translation]

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the disastrous effects of pollution are no longer to be demonstrated and the insistence of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Goode) to debate a second time the establishment of an Environmental Council of Canada shows the strong feelings of the hon. member about this issue which has become one of the world's major concerns.

The fact that this subject was raised by a member of this side of the House reveals how important this subject is to Liberal members. Besides, the leadership shown by Canada at the recent United Nations conference on environment in Stockholm certainly is proof that our country is at the forefront of the battle against pollution.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I would like most cordially to commend the leader of the Canadian delegation, the hon. Minister of Environment (Mr. Davis).

The success of our country during this conference is most encouraging for the survival on this planet of living beings threatened by more or less imminent extinction if mankind does not realize once and for all that there are limits to the saturation of our atmosphere and waters with chemical products which are dangerous not only to man but to all living creatures on the globe.

The goal the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta has in mind in presenting his bill shows his desire to call the attention of the government on its responsibilities and tell the people that instead of merely shouting for help, merely begging the government to do something should act on their own, in their own environment, at work, on the farm and in various places.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian citizen must shoulder a heavy load in this area not only by paying yearly and daily taxes to all government levels, which must also, with that money, take upon themselves to fight pollution, but in trying himself to stem that modern calamity without the need to spend millions of dollars.

For instance, one can see on our Canadian highways, in Quebec, in the Gaspé peninsula, unscrupulous motorists throwing beer bottles, beverage cans, papers of all kinds out of the car windows onto the highway; those people should realize that this is also a form of pollution.

[Mr. Fairweather.]

Somebody mentioned a while ago young people writing to their Parliament members to ask them what to do, what the government is doing in order to fight pollution. I should not like to rebuke all those young people, because they are not all alike, they do not all behave in the same way. Some of them for instance like to frolic on the beach late in the evening and the following day while strolling along we can see dozens and dozens of broken bottles and objects of all kinds polluting our beaches.

I believe we could ask the young people to do their share in the fight against such an enemy, pollution.

I am agreeable to the bill of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta for the establishment of an Environmental Council of Canada. However, among the many measures this government has taken in order to fight pollution, let us point to an existing council which came into being under the legislation creating the Department of the Environment and whose name I shall translate freely as Canadian Environmental Council.

The council so created reports to the minister. The benefits of such a council are the following: if need be, it can report daily to the minister because, according to its own structures, it is in daily contact with the department and the minister, whereas this worthwhile independent environmental Council of Canada, if created, would report to Parliament once a year.

So, we would learn only once a year what is going on as concerns pollution, whereas the already established council is in daily contact with the Department of Environment. And if by any chance one were questioning the seriousness of this council, I should like, before concluding my remarks, to read into the record the names of its members, whose status is quite impressive. They are Canadians who have given evidence of their distinction. Their total number is 15, as was announced by the Minister of the Environment on May 8, 1972.

• (1750)

[English]

Mr. Norbert Beaupre, member. Mr. Beaupre is chairman and president of Domtar Limited, and is chairman of the board, British Columbia Forest Products Limited. He is presently the chairman of the Canadian Forestry Advisory Council, established by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis). Mr. Beaupré held several executive positions with the federal government prior to his association with industry. Dr. Noah Carpenter is presently interning at the Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton and will study general surgery beginning in July 1972 at the University of Alberta. Dr. Donald A. Chant is presently Chairman, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto. He is a founder of Pollution Probe and author of more than 60 research papers on ecology as well as a number of books and reports. Dr. Chant has served on various boards and committees relating to ecology and the environment and has been active with radio and television programming in the environmental field.

Miss Moira Dunbar is a research scientist in the earth sciences division of Defence Research Establishment, Ottawa. She is actively involved in a program to study the growth, movement and decay of ice in northern waters. In 1972, she was awarded the Massey Medal of the Royal