

*Policy Statement on National Resources*

exploitation for today's needs and also their sane conservation for the benefit of generations to follow, is one of the great problems which faces any government. When we look at the amendment before us we see that reference is made to the development of these resources. It refers to energy, including gas, oil, electric transmission, and so on. It deals with water, and then branches out into a number of other areas of concern such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Then, moving even farther afield it brings in the important matter of human resource development.

We have listened with a great deal of interest to the various statements which have been made with regard to the gas and oil problems facing our country. We have listened to the discussion relative to the National Energy Board, the applications of the company involved to export gas, and so on. The policy of this party in this connection is that we believe in the export of these resources after it has been established that the needs of Canada and Canadians for the present and the future have been fully taken care of. We believe that in order to make this possible every effort must be made to facilitate the distribution of these resources in a manner which will be of benefit economically to our country, to the various areas in which the production of these resources takes place and, as I have said, to ensure that Canadians have adequate supplies of these valuable commodities.

I wish to mention in particular the subject of our water resources. This has become an increasingly important issue since it appears that the supplies of fresh water are becoming exhausted and that our friends to the south in particular are looking about in desperation for new sources of adequate fresh water supplies. It is not only the United States that is concerned about this problem. I believe that Canadians are more than ever becoming aware of the importance of protecting our fresh water supplies and doing everything possible to ensure that there is an adequate supply of fresh water in this country.

During this debate it has been pointed out that one can pick up practically any magazine today, particularly technical magazines but other magazines as well, newspapers, departmental reports and reports of various research commissions and committees and find that they all have a great deal to say about the problem of pollution of water, pollution of the air and pollution of the soil. I believe this is one of the major problems which confront us today. A short time ago I

read an article which dealt with the problem that our friends in the United States are facing. It pointed out that if the United States authorities would embark on a real crash program to purify the water they already have they would not be looking about so desperately for new sources of supply. It is because of pollution that they are in their present predicament. This should be a warning to us in Canada that unless we give attention to this matter and deal with it effectively we will reach a point where we will be in desperate straits so far as adequate supplies of fresh water are concerned.

● (5:30 p.m.)

The problem of pollution has been raised on many occasions from a national, regional and local point of view. Within the past two weeks I have received communications, as I suppose other members from British Columbia have, from organizations which are alarmed about the pollution problem in the lower reaches of the Fraser river. They point out not only the health hazard but the danger of this condition in relation to the fisheries industry. They have made representations that extreme care be taken to ensure that the situation is not further aggravated. They are urging that definite plans be instituted to clear up the problem in order that our waters can be made safe.

Pollution affects not only the waters of our nation but also the air, and ample emphasis has been placed on this danger this afternoon. Soil pollution is also becoming a problem. This was brought to my attention by one of my constituents who attempted to obtain an N.H.A. loan. He purchased a ten-acre plot outside the populated area of Abbotsford. When he made an application for an N.H.A. loan he was told that no loan would be forthcoming because of regulations in respect of soil pollution. This man intended to build a home on a ten-acre plot but could not obtain an N.H.A. loan because of the danger of soil pollution. In spite of this we find that in many areas pollution is being looked upon with little concern and in many instances little is being done to solve the problem.

There are references in the amendment to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In relation to recommendations in respect of agriculture, let me refer briefly to the submission to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on February 22, 1967. The brief deals with agricultural development and on page 44 we find the heading