

Water Resources

Board, or some other section of the department that would have to carry out the investigation.

My friend in the Steamship Inspection Service, whose office overlooks the harbour, could not see at that moment any ship in the vicinity of Eastern Passage that could have created that particular oil slick. Upon investigation, however, it turned out that a ship, which might or might not have been the guilty party, had just cleared the harbour so the Steamship Inspection Service of the department did get into the act.

The point I am making, perhaps rather laboriously, is that I might have been left phoning both parties, the National Harbours Board and the Steamship Inspection Service, with each of them saying, "No, it is the other fellow's responsibility." Then, the poor fishermen would have had no recourse whatsoever. It is a matter of disappointment that in this bill there is not spelled out specifically some over-all authority that would cut down the interventions of various federal departments and establish one over-all authority to deal with pollution whether it came by land or by water, as happened in this case in Halifax harbour.

My puzzlement has become even greater in that a few days ago the Department of Fisheries got into the act. It carried out an intensive investigation of the conditions in Bedford Basin, that great body of water back of the peninsula of Halifax, which is familiarly known to most Canadians as the great gathering place for the wartime convoys. At one time the Bedford Basin used to have fish life in it. The fish are getting fewer and worse looking as time goes by.

Mr. Greene: That applies to a lot of us.

Mr. McCleave: Yes, the minister may well say that this is happening to a lot of us. But it is happening to the fish because of pollution in that body of water. Part of that pollution comes from the Halifax city dump, and part from the effluents from the Bedford Basin shoreline on which are located several large government enterprises such as the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, conducted by the minister himself, a naval magazine, a great number of homes and several villages. I do not know if the Bedford Institute of Oceanography pours its sewage into the basin, but certainly a lot of sewage gets in there and the Department of Fisheries has found that this is really wreaking havoc with the fish in the

basin, so that eventually we are going to have a very large open sewer in the back part of the city of Halifax.

As I say, the Department of Fisheries getting into the act greatly increased my puzzlement. Then, just before Christmas the CMHC simply ran out of the money which had been allocated to sewage loans, and here I mention such places as Hamilton and the city of Halifax which were in line for loans. Therefore, while the minister, with that burst of eloquence that so characterizes him and which we hope will never diminish, presents this bill to us and talks about the brave new world in which we will fight pollution, another member of the cabinet in this chamber, the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras), finds that the sewage disposal plants that the city of Halifax, the city of Hamilton and other places want, have to be postponed because money is not available.

Yet, Sir, around the peninsula of Halifax, the old part of Halifax, there are probably 50 to 60 sewer outlets into Halifax harbour, into the Northwest Arm and into Bedford Basin. So, one minister preaches and the other minister says, "Boys, you will have to wait because we don't have money to carry out some pollution remedies at the present time." If one tried to spell out an intelligible war on pollution from these things one would be left very badly adrift.

On looking into the bill itself there are points about it that strike me as even more curious than the arguments I have related up to now. For example, there is the setting up of the management authorities. This brings another new body on to the scene, which in some cases can be set up unilaterally. In other cases it is set up in consultation with provinces or with a province.

What will happen if either Ontario or the Quebec government becomes obstreperous over the setting up of such a water quality management authority for the Ottawa River which, as the hon. member who just preceded me noted, is the source of noxious smells of its own? What happens if the minister is able to wheedle one of the two provinces into agreeing to set up the authority but his powers of persuasion fail with the other provincial government? Above all, what happens during all the delay while this diplomatic stuff goes on? I think the approach is certainly open to question.

While our amendment was thrown out, the points that were advanced so ably by my colleague have all the validity in the world. I