

B.C.'s turn in so far as the building of a big new environmental institute is concerned.

The Science Council makes a good case for ice studies and ice removal in the lower St. Lawrence. I have no doubt that environmental studies aimed at clearing this great waterway in the winter months will pay off handsomely. Here is another task which our environmentalists should tackle with determination.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, and tell the House about our testing of pesticides in Halifax, about our eutrophication studies on the Great Lakes, about fish farming on the Prairies, and about our efforts to rescue the wildlife habitat on the Athabasca-Delta. But suffice it to say that our scientists and our engineers are hard at work. They are working flat out on pollution problems and renewable resource management problems from coast to coast, and from the Great Lakes to the Arctic Archipelago.

Our new environmental department is a decentralized department. Less than 10 per cent of its work force is located in the Ottawa area. The rest are to be found out where the fish are, where the trees are, where the lakes are and where the problems are. Our biggest wildlife centre is in Edmonton. Our biggest fisheries research laboratory is in Nanaimo. Our big centres for inland waters are in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Burlington, Ontario. The headquarters of our meteorological service is in Toronto. Our main oceanographic institute is in Dartmouth. We are planning a new centre for Arctic studies in the Northwest Territories. Here is decentralization with a purpose. It is decentralization with an eye to the expansion of our resource base, and with a view to enhancing our environment in the long run.

In this wide ranging speech, I have covered a lot of ground. But I must be careful, Mr. Speaker. Our new Department of the Environment will not embrace all of the activities of the federal government relating to pollution control. Other departments like Agricultural, Urban Affairs, Northern Affairs, Transport, Regional Economic Expansion and Energy, Mines and Resources will also have important responsibilities in the environmental field. They will deal with particulars, while the role of our new Department of the Environment is more general. It is more sweeping, and it includes the role of a coordinator. It must make sure that our plans do not have any gaps in them, that our programs are as broadly based as possible, and that the quality of life in Canada is preserved for all time to come.

Reading our daily press and watching television one is often gripped with a sense of apocalyptic doom. Handed a sordid dossier of man's mishandling of his surroundings, we are bound to be depressed. I agree with those who are sounding the alarm. If things keep on this way we will be in a real mess. We will be in a real mess by the year 2000. But let us not blame science and technology for all our ills. Man's greed is the real culprit. It is his greed in the material sense which is to blame for the present state of things.

Of course, we have to mend our ways. We have to stop doing those things which the scientists tell us are harmful to our environment. Since greedy practices have

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become a habit, this will not be easy. But, knowing the facts, we have the will to change. We have the will to use modern technology in such a way as to ensure our own survival and that of all other living things.

Of course, Canadians will have to make some hard decisions about the kind of world which we want our children and their children's children to inherit from us. Environmentally speaking, we all want it to be a better world than we now know. So, we must make sacrifices in the 1970's. We must make sacrifices, especially on the economic front. But armed with more scientific know-how, we can enhance our environment. Our new department of the environment, properly manned, properly organized and properly directed, can help us on our way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Davis: Before sitting down, Mr. Speaker, I should like to join the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) in saying a word about our present deputy minister, Dr. Needler, who is to retire shortly. For many years he has been in the government service. He performed a yeoman's task, first on the Fisheries Research Board and, latterly, in the Department of Fisheries and Forestry. I hope we have not seen the last of him. I shall do my best to persuade him to act as an adviser to us, particularly on international matters and, more particularly, in relation to the next Law of the Sea Conference. I hope that these few words will allay the concern of the hon. member for South Shore about our ability to deal with fisheries problems, and especially international fisheries problems, in the months and years ahead.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry? I listened with much interest to his comments regarding the cleaning up of the environment, and especially to those remarks concerning mercury. As he is aware, a very serious situation has developed in the Canadian deep-sea fishery. Fishermen who are landing swordfish are finding that their catches are being impounded because of their mercury content. Since this is an immediate and urgent matter, may I ask whether the minister has looked into it. What are those fishermen to do? Are they immediately to go on unemployment insurance or are they to continue fishing on the understanding that any swordfish which may be landed will be purchased by the minister's department, in order that this important and viable industry may be continued in Atlantic Canada?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the department has been in close touch with the fishermen and the vessel owners concerned. They understand the situation. They understand that there is little likelihood of our being able to pass, and therefore market, the swordfish that they are likely to catch. Probably some of the smaller, younger fish might meet the standards. Many of the larger and older swordfish are unlikely to meet these standards. As a result, we have the same problem facing us in respect