

Canada Water Act will provide an effective, co-ordinated and flexible vehicle for the federal government to act within its sphere to manage the water resources of Canada jointly with the provinces. The act is designed to permit the federal government to mount a systematic attack on water pollution problems jointly whenever possible and unilaterally if necessary. Amendments to the Fisheries Act re-define the anti-pollution powers of the Department of Fisheries and the much praised and widely heralded Arctic waters pollution prevention bill establishes a 100 mile wide shipping safety control zone off the Canadian coast. Within that zone, the federal government can take action to prevent the threat of pollution.

● (4:40 p.m.)

Many other measures have been taken against pollution, including amendments to the Canada shipping Act. These are primarily designed to prevent ships from polluting our waters. At the present time, ships plying our Great Lakes and canal systems are in most cases indiscriminately dumping human waste and raw sewage into our waters. This has been a scandalous practice for years and to my own personal knowledge has caused unsightly, offensive and dangerous pollution of Lake Erie and the Welland Canal. The new regulations making treatment of wastes mandatory before dumping into the water is a step in the right direction, but a relatively feeble one. The continued practice of dumping even treated wastes into our lakes will continue to add to lake pollution, fostering plant growth which eventually develops into the destructive blight of algae. These regulations pertaining to lake shipping, to be really effective, should prevent dumping of any waste or sewage, treated or not. Container tanks with dockside discharge should be mandatory. I am aware of the jurisdictional problems with foreign vessels, but with the will and determination these are not insurmountable. Pleasure boats in Ontario are being forced to have container tanks. Why not huge ships which are plying our waters for profit and at the same time desecrating a water resource, the heritage of all Canadians?

What has this heartless government done for those in our society who for many reasons, some beyond their control, find themselves incarcerated within our penal system? Have we forgotten about them? The Criminal Records Act, in which I am personally interested, will assist the rehabilitation of the offender by helping to erase the stigma and civil disability of a record. I believe the mechanics of investigation and procedure can be improved upon. I was delighted to see a Senate committee set up to study the operation of this act. I hope it makes cogent recommendations to achieve more effectiveness and increased efficiency in the administration of this act. The 10-year Canadian penitentiary service plan designed to emphasize the rehabilitative aspect as opposed to the custodial, inaugurated a system of maximum, medium and minimum security prisons and much progress has been made in a more enlightened attitude toward our penal system. We still, however, have gaping anomalies and retrogressive practices. As this is a budget

The Budget—Mr. Tolmie

debate, apart from the humanitarian aspect, there is a tremendous financial one.

In 1970, there were 7,400 inmates in federal penitentiaries. It costs at least \$6,000 a year to maintain an inmate. One can see the enormous cost, running into the millions, to the Canadian taxpayer. Great Britain, with over twice the population, has half the prison population we do. If for no other reason than purely financial, we should impose more suspended sentences, grant more probation and even more parole. Prison construction is costly, especially maximum security institutions. The question now arises, how many maximum security prisons should we have and what type of design? In my opinion, we should have fewer and they should be designed to promote the rehabilitation of the inmate as opposed to the preoccupation with security. From a budgetary standpoint alone, we would gain. Millions would be saved in construction and millions saved by having inmates return sooner to society better able to cope, and once again become productive citizens. I am glad to see that a committee will be studying the whole problem of maximum security prisons and will report this November.

My theme in these remarks has been that the present government, although certainly not perfect, contrary to the critics' allegations of a cold, impersonal machine-like approach, devoid of feeling and compassion, has demonstrated its deep concern for the individual as shown by its progressive policies. I have mentioned a few, in the realm of veterans affairs, senior citizens, housing, the consumer, our youth, pollution and penal reform. This liberal, progressive and equitable trend reached its summit in the new budget proposals and tax reform. Certainly, I am not going to recapitulate the budget proposals. Suffice it to say that this budget has been acclaimed by nearly every segment of society; business, the middle class and low-income families. The fact that now one million low-income and elderly taxpayers will pay no personal income tax; five million will pay less and 1.3 million with higher incomes will pay more, along with the introduction of the capital gains tax, all indicates the most radical, comprehensive and progressive reform in our tax system since its establishment in 1917.

What is really important about the budget is, of course, the fairer distribution of the tax load, but more important is the climate it is generating across this country. The economy has to be stimulated if we are going to relieve the miseries of unemployment. The government has helped by its own expansionary policies. The increased money in the hands of the individual and the corporations through lower taxes will help, but the sense of confidence in government, confidence in ourselves and our economy will release hundreds of millions from the private sector now hoarded and conserved against the uncertainties and vagaries of present economic conditions. This new feeling of optimism and stability created by our budget will restore confidence to business, the investor and the consumer, with a resultant decrease in unemployment and tolerable inflation.

I would be remiss not to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson). Largely by his decisions, a mood of buoyancy and hope pervades this land; by this budget