

Criminal Code

be those of a layman. I will try not to get involved in the actual wording of the required amendments to the Criminal Code. These will have to be left to the legal profession and, if implemented, to the Department of Justice.

Water pollution is not a new problem. It has been discussed in the house on several previous occasions, but no positive action was ever taken by the former government. This is a major problem today, and it exists right across Canada. Streams, rivers and lakes are being polluted by raw sewage and commercial wastes, making these waters unfit for human consumption, and unfit for bathing and other recreation. It has become so bad that it kills fish and wild game.

There are many causes of pollution. Raw sewage is one; commercial wastes and oil are another; leakage from power boats and vessels is another. Any water pollution which can have a serious effect on the health and welfare of a community certainly should not be treated lightly. The many streams, rivers and lakes are God's creation and should be retained in their purity. They should not be allowed to be sacrificed to private greed or to wanton and wilful pollution. These streams, rivers and lakes should be retained for the comfort, recreation and relaxation of every Canadian. If all individuals thought about the good christian virtue of doing unto your neighbour as you would wish he would do unto you and acted accordingly, I am sure that individuals or companies would not deliberately pollute the streams running past their neighbour's door.

The co-operation of individuals, companies and all levels of government is required to eliminate pollution. The only way to do this is to have laws to make pollution of water an offence for which an offender can be punished. A medical man can draw a chart and show you the various forms of pollution and the effect they have on various types of life. The legal man can draft necessary legislation to restrict all types of pollution and make them punishable by law.

Being from Manitoba I intend to take as examples some of the rivers in that province. The Red river is one of them. The Assiniboine river, the Winnipeg river and the Saskatchewan river all pass through Manitoba. As I previously pointed out, this matter of water pollution has been discussed in this house on several occasions. The last time it was discussed in the house was in February of 1956. I should just like to read a quotation from a speech made by the Prime Minister as reported at page 1631 of *Hansard* of that year. This was at the time

he introduced an amendment respecting pollution of interprovincial rivers:

In other words, the amendment which I am suggesting is to cover the general situation arising out of the pollution of interprovincial streams in Canada. In the case of navigable streams offences are created in so far as the Fisheries Act is concerned when anything in the nature of an effluent and the like is dumped into a stream and causes harm to fish; but in so far as interprovincial rivers are concerned, as the law stands today there is practical immunity for those who dump effluent into the river because of the wording of the section in question which permits wanton and wilful pollution of streams when there is no effect upon the health and comfort of the individual.

There are many examples of this, one outstanding example being the majestic Ottawa river which adjoins these parliament buildings.

I am not going to deal with the Ottawa river. There are many hon. members in this house who are well acquainted with the Ottawa river and the problems they are having, and no doubt the matter will be dealt with by some of those hon. members. To continue this quotation from the Prime Minister's speech as reported at page 1631 of *Hansard* of 1956:

I believe that in the realm of God's richest bounty clean river water should have a high place and ought not to be allowed to be sacrificed to private greed or to wanton and wilful pollution. There is nothing today in the law to protect the public against wanton and wilful pollution by a small minority who for their own purposes contemptuously disregard the public interest in so far as interprovincial rivers are concerned.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I wonder if my hon. friend would speak a little more loudly. It is difficult to hear him.

Mr. Stefanson: Did the hon. member ask me to speak louder?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, in order that we may hear you.

Mr. Stefanson: I am sorry if the hon. member cannot hear me. The Prime Minister then goes on to say that this problem has been before the house on two previous occasions. The particular river he dealt with was the North Saskatchewan river flowing through North Battleford and Prince Albert, and at the time it was polluting the water at North Battleford, Prince Albert and The Pas.

I just want to go back to the Red river and Winnipeg. It has on many occasions created many problems from oil being dumped into it flowing into lake Winnipeg, from the raw sewage flowing down the stream and so on. I have here a quotation from a letter written by G. F. Jonasson, president of Keystone Fisheries Limited in Winnipeg. He feels that the pollution coming from the Red river, the Winnipeg river and other rivers are polluting lake Winnipeg to the extent that it is having a harmful effect