

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

First of all, on behalf of my constituents I want to thank the minister most sincerely for his prompt action the other day in directing National Harbours Board officials to end their open burning of refuse in the area. This is action in the right direction. But there is continuous, serious concern and alarm that at least one company in the area, Neptune Terminals, are equipping themselves to handle the bulk shipment of coal but that the engineers may have made insufficient allowances for pollution control techniques. I hope that the fears of many are completely unfounded. Nobody wants to restrict a good enterprise which is attempting to establish itself in this country. But I hope that assurances can be given in this regard.

It must be the paradox of the age that technology can carry men to the moon while back here on good old earth we are in the process of making the environment unliveable because of air and other types of pollution. Modern technology can mine coal with equipment handling 200 tons a minute, carry it by efficient unit trains to the coast and load it aboard 150,000 ton super ships, but apparently that same technology can provide no firm guarantees that the loading and unloading operations of coal and other commodities will be clean and pollution-free. Apparently, these kind of guarantees are impossible to obtain. The technology which creates pollution in Canada must be matched by the technology which controls pollution. Surely, we have reached the point where adequate pollution control must be regarded as essential in respect of enterprises doing business whether it be in British Columbia or Newfoundland.

● (10:10 p.m.)

Wherever the federal government has power and jurisdiction, only one rule should apply to industry—clean up or shut down. If possible, we should move to enact legislation which will specifically empower the federal government to enforce clean air, clean soil and clean water standards in all areas under federal jurisdiction. We have seen encouraging progress made by the federal government during this session in these areas.

In saying this, I am aware of the difficulties which may exist in the matter of regulating air pollution in the absence of any single authority empowered to set and to enforce standards. In the area under question, which I know so well, the city of Vancouver has recently passed a very strict by-law but this of

course, is not effective outside city boundaries, and pollution does not respect boundaries.

The by-laws of the three North Shore municipalities are either inadequate or non-existent. The regional district does not have pollution controls as one of its functions, and the provincial pollution control board has not addressed itself completely to the problem.

I ask the federal government to seek practical solutions for itself and its agencies whereby they can clean up operations on land controlled by them. It is to be hoped that local governments on the lower mainland will take action through their regional district. The federal government could give strength to this concept by indicating that its agencies will co-operate in the setting of standards and the enforcement of them by the regional district and will comply with any regulatory by-laws, even though not technically bound by them.

It may be that tonight the minister can provide solid assurances that coal-dust pollution will not in fact take place in the projected Neptune Terminal operation. Beyond this, however, lies the question whether, particularly in an expanding, growing area like the lower mainland, chronically pollution prone industries should be permitted close to major population centres unless they clean up. We must ask ourselves whether, from a pollution standpoint in the years to come or from an aesthetic standpoint, pollution prone industries will even be tolerable near populated areas.

The other day, in what can only be described as a traumatic experience, I surveyed the lower mainland of British Columbia from the air in a light aircraft on a weekday morning. It was a shock to see one of the world's most beautiful vistas lying under an ominous yellow cloud of pollution. It is no solace whatsoever to console oneself with the thought that several other Canadian communities are in far worse shape, such as Toronto or Montreal to name just two centres.

Experiences like this should strengthen the resolve of members of all parties in this house to advance every effort in the war against pollution and the polluters of Canada's environment. It is to be hoped that the government will ensure that full air pollution control equipment measures be clearly and completely shown in the Neptune project and