

*Supply—Industry*

Tully, secretary of the privy council committee on water pollution.

He said that Canada's pollution policy for the next generation will evolve from the guidelines set at the national pollution conference, and I trust he is correct in this respect. I am told that Mr. Tully is a chemist who has worked on pollution problems for more than 35 years. In an interview about the five-day pollution conference sponsored by the Canadian council of resource ministers, he said there were 600 experts from a variety of fields who had assembled to establish guidelines on water, air and soil pollution for the council which was set up to advise the federal and provincial governments. He said also that there were 400 decision makers such as cabinet ministers, members of parliament, deputy ministers and high level civil servants listening to the discussions.

I was very interested to hear him say that there had never been another conference for this particular purpose anywhere in the world at any other time. I was glad to see that Canada was taking the lead with respect to this very important problem. The guidelines that were established at the conference represent the best thoughts of Canadian intellectuals, both federal and provincial legislators, administrators, as well as representatives of industries in this country.

I understand there were also a few members of the medical profession present at the conference. In my opinion, the major value of the conference was the focusing and directing of public attention on this very important and vital issue.

Today, I am making an appeal to the minister and to the government which has nothing to do with political beliefs or other partisan convictions. I am alarmed at the sight of our industries and people polluting our waters, as it were, with their own hands.

All over Canada, the water table is falling, yet thousands of factories and hundreds of municipal sewer systems are discharging their wastes into our rivers and lakes with only a fraction of our industries or our municipalities giving so-called adequate treatment to this increasing filth. That was clearly indicated in the panel discussions that I attended at this conference.

We all know that water is the lifeblood of any country, and while we have more than tripled our former consumption we are polluting and destroying the water sheds from which it comes. We are destroying something

without which we cannot survive and for which there is no substitute.

The soul of man, shaken and bruised by the ceaseless din of modern cities and the relentless international and national sabre rattling—and I mean it, Mr. Chairman—needs tree-ways rather than free-ways; needs pure water-ways rather than sewer-ways. We disfigure the natural landscape, erode our soils, destroy our forests, and pollute our waters almost with the zeal of a religious mission. I am convinced of this after listening quite recently to one or two conversations between some industrialists who did not appear to be much concerned about this problem.

A great many Canadians are showing an increasing concern and interest in this problem, and are demanding action at all levels of the government and of industry to deal with it effectively. In my own constituency, the municipalities and other organizations are very concerned. I know we have to treat this as a national problem, but naturally I am more informed on the circumstances in my own constituency. Municipalities, conservation committees and other groups in my constituency have been meeting frequently to discuss this problem, although we are very fortunate because only a very small proportion of our waters in Kootenay West are polluted at the present time. The large bulk of the water is still as pure as it comes from the mountain peaks.

To illustrate my point I will quote a headline from the *Nelson Daily News* of February 13, 1960 which reads: "Pollution concern to South Slokan". Another headline from the *Trail Daily Times* of March 11, 1966 reads: "Rescue our water, health unit urges", "Claim population growth has polluted streams". Another one from the *Nelson Daily News* of May 17, 1966 reads: "Pollution control discussed by AKBM"; "Lack of government interest concerning sewage disposal". This has been frequently mentioned both by provincial and federal governments.

Mr. Chairman, I have had a lifelong interest in the conservation of renewable natural resources and when I start speaking on this subject I find it very difficult to stop. However, I will not take more of the time of the house than I think is appropriate to the importance of the subject. It is for this reason that for over 10 years I have moved the following resolution in the house, and I will quote from *Hansard* of March 26, 1952. It reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of calling a