

supplies, are finite. We will have to devise artificial cycles for recovery and reuse of these minerals. Fossil fuels, such as coal and oil are exhaustible and will be in extremely short supply in less than 28 years from now, when we reach the year 2,000. We are developing alternative sources of energy to replace them, such as nuclear power, but here again we must take care that the byproducts of heat and radiation do not defeat our purposes by destroying the natural cycles not under our control. Other sources of non-polluting energy must be researched and perfected to serve mankind in the future.

An integrated environmental policy, whether it be national or international includes many things. One of the most important is population growth. The present growth rate means that our earth must provide every year the resources required to support 70 million new individuals. This is roughly three and a half times the current population in Canada. Every year we must provide new food, power, fuel, air, water, minerals, space, doctors, hospitals, teachers, schools, transportation, industrial plants and many other cultural resources for a population three and a half times that of the current population of Canada, just to maintain the present ratio. Twenty-eight years from now at the end of this century, the world's population could be double that which we find on earth today. The big question arises, do we have the resources to feed, clothe, and house these people adequately, and the answer is obviously "no", for even in this day and age, two out of every three human beings on the face of the earth go to bed hungry every night.

Another important problem, particularly in the more industrialized nations, is that of resource use. For example, in Canada, with a relatively small population of some 22 million people, our individual drain on resources is estimated to be about 26 times greater than that of a resident of India or China or Pakistan. It is 30 times greater than that of a Nigerian, and about 10 times greater than that of a Brazilian. This means that Canada's 22 million people make roughly the same demands on the resources of this earth as some 572 million Chinese living in Asia. We cannot ignore indefinitely the enormous per capita demands that the world's growing population makes on the world's limited resources, both inside and outside our borders. We cannot ignore the fact either that it is absolutely impossible for the people living in the underdeveloped nations of the world to ever reach the standard of living which we currently enjoy in Canada. The net resources of this earth just cannot provide that type of standard, even for those living in the world today. When we consider the likelihood of the world population being doubled within the next 28 years, it becomes obvious that hundreds of millions of human beings on the face of this earth can look forward to nothing but abject poverty, disease and pestilence on an unheard of scale. The escalating world population is a major environmental problem facing every nation in the world today. It must be placed high on the agenda of the United Nations for solution, as it obviously needs top priority attention.

There are many other serious environmental problems in the international field, including the severe and serious problem of our oceans. Agreements must be worked out among all nations to adequately protect our ocean environment. Tough international laws must be set and

Supply

enforced, for the very existence of mankind is threatened unless early action is taken. For far too long we have allowed the oceans to become dumping grounds for pollutants of all kinds.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal briefly with what I consider are some serious shortcomings in the present Department of the Environment. The chief weakness lies in the lack of the over-all authority required to do an effective job to protect our environment. This is becoming more obvious every day and legislative action should be taken this session to rectify the situation.

Let us look briefly at the Department of the Environment, and the job it is supposed to do, in protecting our environment from damage or unwise use. To begin with, I feel the minister cannot effectively administer the Fisheries and Forestry departments and at the same time handle the environmental problems affecting those same departments. There is bound to be a conflict of economic and environmental interests on many occasions. It seems to me that no minister should be placed in this position for it could lead to those half measures of compromise which never do a real job of cleaning up a situation. For this reason, I suggest that the Department of the Environment should not be combined with any other portfolio. It should have complete over-all authority in all federal areas and should be setting and enforcing the necessary regulations to bring and keep our environment in the proper state of balance.

It is nonsense for the Department of the Environment to not have complete control over environmental problems in our northern areas which are under federal jurisdiction. It does not make sense to have officials in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with as much, if not more, power of decision making as far as environmental controls in the north are concerned. I saw this when the land use regulations were being laid down by this government only last year. I, personally, feel that to have other departments play the major role in setting the pollution standards for effluents in the north does not make sense from an ecological point of view. If the object is to fully protect our environment, then half measures are not good enough. Again, there would be the conflict of interest about which I spoke earlier. We cannot afford these compromise solutions when it comes to protecting the Canadian environment adequately. Firm and sensible regulations must be laid down without tremendous pressure coming from commercial interests to have these regulations watered down just so they can make some additional profits out of our natural resources.

• (1630)

Another major weakness in the Department of the Environment is its apparent lack of direction and action on several vital environmental problems which exist in Canada today. A good example of this is to be found in the James Bay area. It is obvious that the Department of the Environment is not playing the effective role in this major development which Canadians expect. The federal government has clear jurisdiction in several aspects of this project, but it has delayed taking action primarily because of political reasons. The minister himself stated that environmental impact studies should be carried out