

*Water Resources*

standards applicable to pollution throughout the country. It does not attack the problem of pollution in its entirety.

Reference has been made to the serious oil pollution threat not only to contiguous waters but to all our navigable waters, especially major waters such as the St. Lawrence River. In addition, we must consider the serious effect of pollution from an ecological point of view. At this point I would refer briefly to a paper prepared for the Canadian Wildlife Service by Professor Richard E. Warner of Memorial University in which specific recommendations are made for coping with the serious threat of oil pollution. One of the serious shortcomings of this bill is that it contains no reference to the effect of oil pollution on the ecological balance of nature. The paper to which I have referred calls for the carrying out of a national survey to identify sites of special importance preparatory to the development of special protection programs. The criteria suggested for the evaluation of these sites are as follows:

1. Their ecological significance to wild life and/or to man.
2. Their aesthetic, recreational and scenic values.
3. The presence of highly susceptible life forms, for example, Atlantic sea birds and inshore water fowl.
4. The presence of rare or endangered species.
5. The uniqueness of the area as representative of Canadian habitats.

The paper goes on to suggest that the survey should be linked with present Canadian activities in the international biological program and with whatever activities Canada is carrying out in an effort to obtain international agreement. I believe this is an important recommendation not only because of the threat pollution poses to man himself but because of the fact that many of our wildlife species are threatened with extinction.

• (8:10 p.m.)

We feel that the legislation should incorporate the government's total approach to this problem. All that this bill provides is some pussyfooting around the problem, and this notwithstanding the very eloquent speech of the minister in introducing the bill on second reading.

I am sorry that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang), who while the minister was ill carried the message of the bill across

[Mr. McGrath.]

Canada and met representatives of the provincial governments, has not participated in this debate. Indeed, I am sorry he is not in the chamber, because I am sure that he would be able to confirm what in fact many of us believe to be true, namely, that there are no standards applied across the country in the matter of pollution. Each province will approach the problem of pollution in its own way, as best suits its own interests.

I suggest that is not the way to approach the problem of pollution. Pollution is a national problem and requires a totally national, federal approach. It has already been established that the federal government has constitutional authority to deal with pollution, and in fact has exercised this authority under the Fisheries Act.

The picture of pollution is a total one. There is pollution of our water by phosphates, industrial and human waste; there is air pollution by industry, and by probably the biggest polluter of the atmosphere of all, the automobile. We have environmental pollution, such as that posed by the introduction of the non-returnable bottle which is now littering the countryside. We have pollution of our contiguous waters by oil and industrial waste. We have the increasing threat that is posed by the advent of the exploitation of oil resources on both the east and west coasts of Canada and by the opening up of the Arctic oil storehouse, Alaska, and the transportation of its oil through the Northwest Passage; and lastly, we have pollution of the high seas. You cannot isolate one source of pollution from the others, and in order to make a total approach to the pollution threat all these factors must be taken into consideration.

The bill now before the House is a very sad attempt to meet the challenge presented. It is a very sad attempt to live up to the expectations of Canadians who are very concerned about the threat of pollution. They are concerned not only with the destruction of this natural environment but, indeed, the threat to their very survival. We in North America are reaching the stage where pure water, like pure air, is practically as rare as some of our wildlife species that are threatened with extinction.

We believe very strongly that the government should reconsider this bill with a view to making pollution an offence in Canada as a whole, not just in the designated water management areas which this legislation will set up if agreement can be reached with the provinces. I believe water quality standards