

seems to me that we should allow this bill to pass so that more Canadians may become aware of our pollution difficulties. I think, also, that what is needed is not a week devoted to pollution awareness, or more studies on pollution, but action under the law. We should act, even under the criminal law, to curb existing pollution, including pollution on the lower mainland of British Columbia. Having said that, I resume my seat with the hope that this measure will pass.

Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few brief comments on this bill. First of all, I congratulate the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Goode) for bringing the bill before the House. I think it makes a great deal of sense for Canadians to be made aware of our pollution problems. I suggest that when the bill is referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works it be re-named the Canadian National Environment Week Act. I suggest this because I believe that when we talk about pollution we talk in negative terms, whereas when we talk about the environment we talk positively.

I support the provision of the bill. I should like to see it go to committee. I hope that when the committee has a chance to examine the bill, it will also examine thoroughly the effect on our environment of those matters which already have been touched upon by this House. I commend the hon. member and support the provisions of this bill.

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I should like very briefly, perhaps for not more than two minutes, to talk about the bill. May I, too, congratulate the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Goode) on his initiative, his concern and his thoughtfulness in bringing forward this kind of bill. I have only one reservation: I do not know if the bill will do any good, but I agree with the hon. member from the NDP who said that it cannot do any harm. That is my only reservation. If the hon. member is to speak before the debate closes, he might touch on this point.

I wonder if a week is long enough. I am sure the hon. member would not find it difficult to persuade members on this side of the House to extend the period to one month, or to take in the whole of 1971.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish to speak briefly on Bill C-25 now before the House. Our group does not intend to talk-out the bill. However, I wish to make a few remarks in connection with it. The bill is entitled "An act respecting Canadian National Pollution Awareness Week". I have not yet made up my mind whether the title of "National Environment Week" suggested by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange) is better than the present title. Personally, I believe there is a need to make the public of Canada aware, by any means available, of the pollution problems facing us. I think the House generally ought to endorse such an objective.

As I say, we endorse the principle of the bill. I for one feel it is an excellent idea that one week be set aside

Canadian Pollution Awareness Week

as national pollution awareness week. If the legislation were passed, I am certain we should find a number of schools, organizations and individuals concentrating upon the major environmental problems which face us. Perhaps that would give school students and individuals in various organizations throughout Canada a chance to learn a little more about the serious difficulties that mankind and the Canadian environment face. I therefore feel that either a national environment week or a Canadian national pollution awareness week would be of benefit in educating our people about our pollution difficulties.

One or two small matters worry me about bills of this kind. I want to make it crystal clear that bills such as this can do some good. But it is amazing that amendments moved by members on this side of the House, which could have done as much good as this bill or even better, have not been accepted. What has happened, Mr. Speaker? We on this side have not heard one word of support from members on the government side of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harding: Time and time again we have made suggestions which if accepted would have tightened legislation dealing with pollution. It is time for backbenchers on the Liberal side of the House to realize that all groups can assist in bringing forward good legislation.

Mr. McGrath: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harding: I see that I have ample time for speaking, Mr. Speaker. May I point out two or three things which have happened in the control of pollution in Canada.

An hon. Member: Don't kill the bill.

Mr. Harding: This bill deals with pollution. Little more than six months ago we passed the Canada Water Act. At that time members of the opposition fought for national standards. We lost the fight in the committee and on the floor of the House.

An hon. Member: The hon. member is all mixed up.

Mr. Harding: No, I am not mixed up.

An hon. Member: You are.

Mr. Harding: What is happening now, Mr. Speaker? The Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) is going from one end of Canada to the other demanding national standards, the same standards that the Conservative party, the New Democratic Party and the Cr ditiste party fought for only six or seven months ago.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harding: At that time our Liberal friends without exception voted against the principle of national standards.

Some hon. Members: Shame!