

Water Resources Programs

our job to see that the public interest is served, and in my judgment nothing would be gained by labelling after we have eliminated phosphates by law. I believe our task is to keep phosphates out of the water by direct control, which we must make sure will be applied and will be fair to all.

Finally, we do not believe that labelling really belongs in a water act. It certainly goes beyond the scope of the bill. Perhaps it might be included in a bill on the labelling of consumer products. The minister has indicated that he is prepared to discuss this matter with his colleagues. In the meantime, he has suggested that he is not prepared at this stage to accept the amendment to the bill before the House at this time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my view the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75 (11) the vote on this amendment stands deferred.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka) moved:

(18) That Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources be amended by renumbering the present clause 19 as 19 (1) and adding the following:

"(2). Before any such regulation is made, the minister shall first give notice thereof to the provincial governments, representatives of any industries directly affected, and such organizations of citizens as the minister deems appropriate."

He said: This amendment would require consultation between the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) and the provincial governments and representatives of industries directly affected as well as such organizations of citizens as the minister deems appropriate. I proposed this amendment in the committee when we were discussing the amendment with relation to phosphates and other nutrients. The way I phrased it was that the minister would be required to have interdepartmental consulta-

[Mr. Orange.]

tions before the regulations are made. But the minister resisted very strongly the suggestion that consultation be required by statute. For that reason I dropped that part of the amendment. The minister seemed to think it was offensive to him that I should suggest he did not consult his colleagues. He also said it would be a derogation of his duties as a Privy Councillor to pass regulations without consulting other departments.

The reason I am bringing up this question is as follows: The part of the bill which we are now considering brings in regulations concerning nutrients, particularly phosphates. Clause 9 gives the Governor in Council the power to make regulations concerning the timetable within which these nutrients are to be limited or banned. It was my feeling at the time, from what I heard from officials of various departments, that there was insufficient interdepartmental consultation in connection with the drafting of the bill and if that happened so far as the drafting was concerned how much less likely is it there would be consultation in connection with the regulations that are to be drawn.

I proposed during the committee stage a much longer amendment which required consultation between this department and several other government departments, particularly the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of Transport, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and others. I felt that the full impact of banning phosphates is not yet known. As has been pointed out, there has been a severe reduction in the use of phosphates in Sweden and in other countries, but there is a good deal of doubt about how these reductions will affect many aspects of the economy. For example, it is still not certain whether or not the banning of phosphates will affect the operation of dishwashers and washing machines. If it does, we are in real trouble in this country if we go ahead and make regulations without knowing their effect on the whole economy and without knowing what will happen when people can no longer find the type of detergent that they can use in the washing machines and dishwashers which they own.

Even more important is the case of industrial detergents and hospital detergents, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard). It is not yet known whether the banning or reduction of phosphates in detergents used in hospitals or