

which are considered inexhaustible cesspools, the process of producing oxygen is being destroyed. The very minute organisms in the oceans that produce 70 per cent of our oxygen are being killed by pollutants being dumped daily into the oceans. Who knows how long it will be before these organisms are all destroyed?

We are participating in a world-wide program of destroying the production of oxygen. It will not be too much longer before there is no oxygen left, and that will mean the end of all forms of life. Possibly we cannot do a great deal in view of our position and the relative amount of pollutants we pour into the oceans. However, we can do something. We must do something concrete and forceful about this situation in order to convince other members of the United Nations to adopt the same course.

Studies have shown that DDT and similar pesticides have almost an interminable life. Phytoplankton in the ocean are the basis for protein-producing organisms that capture sunlight. Through a process of photosynthesis, they produce protein for the animal life in the ocean. These are being destroyed by the billions of gallons of chemicals and effluent being poured into our waterways by municipalities and industry which eventually reach the oceans.

Another matter that should be of concern to the government is air pollution. All the government has done to date is to make a simple declaration in the bill presently before us. There is no point repeating the fact that in the United States automobiles produce 60 per cent of the air pollution. When the emission from automobiles is combined with rocket fuels, insecticides and smoke from industrial plants and incinerators, oxygen is destroyed. This affects human life, and in particular, can cause impairment of the mother's foetus.

The government does not recognize the serious situation with regard to sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ash in our air. I do not know what the constitutional position is with regard to control over the air. The government should not introduce a verbal declaration of its concern without indicating what it intends to do about air pollution. If the government follows the same course with regard to air pollution as it did with regard to water pollution under the Canada Water Act, that will not be good enough. It will simply mean another set of standards relating to air that will only come into effect if there is agreement with the provinces. The verbal concern expressed by statute or regulatory form will be meaningless unless agreement is reached with those areas that have the constitutional jurisdiction to deal with these matters.

A conference will be held between the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the provinces. This will provide an opportunity for the government to take immediate action. Differences of opinion about the constitution should be brushed aside and the provinces should agree to give the federal government authority to deal with environmental matters. Because the problem is national in scope, there should be a national approach rather than a piecemeal approach by the provinces.

Government Organization Act, 1970

Another area of conflict about which the government does not seem to be seriously concerned is the matter of population. Scientists and biologists have predicted the world population for 1975, 1980 and the year 2000. As a companion measure to the control of the environment and ceasing to pollute our air, land, water, foodstuffs and the like, there must be a world-wide program to limit population growth. If our population doubles by the year 2000, our pollution problems will also double. There is also the problem of the multiplication factor which presently exists with regard to pollution.

Although the government states that it is concerned about the environment, the Department of National Health and Welfare is not concerned about birth control, family planning, and a zero population increase. The department has not recognized this as a matter of tremendous concern. Increased population will contribute to a possible elimination of life within the next two, three or four generations. Even a government that does not care about unemployment should be shaken out of its lethargy on this matter. The government should do more than present a well drafted bill in the hope that the publicity and propaganda machine will lead Canadians to believe that something is really being done.

The Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) is very presentable. He is adept at making statements when interviewed over television. One of his pet phrases with regard to pollution is that industry must keep its pollutants within the plant gate. Industry must recycle the water which it uses. The pulp and paper industry cannot be permitted to dump effluents into any body of water. It must have a closed circuit water system. The only water lost as a result of industrial production should be by absorption or evaporation. Neither the minister nor the government have taken any steps to require any industry in Canada to meet these requirements. It is just a declaration and a bit of propaganda. How can anyone believe a government which says it intends to do something and then does not do it? How can we believe anything which the government says about the environment?

Although the department of fisheries has full authority and jurisdiction, there has been no concrete activity to prevent pollution of our environment. It is the only federal department which has full authority. It is true that the department has taken some action which has resulted in pulp mill companies appearing before the courts. A pulp company in my constituency was fined \$3,000 for having contravened the Fisheries Act, but that did not stop the pollution. It is true that the company is preparing a plan to present to the department of fisheries. However, that plan does not include a provision to contain their water system within the plant gates, use the same water over again and reclaim the chemicals in it. There is no requirement of that sort. All the \$3,000 fine, or whatever it is, amounts to, is a licence to continue to pollute the waters outside the plant. And this case can be duplicated thousands of times across Canada.

• (3:10 p.m.)

Much as I hope that somebody in this government will recognize the need to take concrete action to preserve our