

*Water Resources*

we can say this very proudly it soon becomes apparent that the very size of the lakes can work to their disadvantage as well as being their strength. Because of their size it has been assumed that they will always be here with the same quality and quantity of water and there is nothing that man might do in the way of use or abuse that could change the natural regime.

We have seen what has happened to Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair because their lakes were not big enough. The report states further:

This was the thinking that motivated our forebears when they carried out their onslaught on the seemingly unlimited resources of this continent. It is not necessary to remind ourselves of the results of the wanton destruction that took place, but we should keep this image before us and realize that we are at present committing a similar monstrous destruction of the last large resource left to us in this area. We must also constantly remind ourselves that the Great Lakes are a natural resource which is far more vital to us than any of those which were destroyed in the past.

We have a great fund of knowledge and material in connection with problems confronting us in the field of conservation and the necessity of taking care of the great Canadian water resource. Anyone who wants to make a study of pollution should read this document which I have in my hand. It was published by the Department of Biology, McMaster University. It is entitled, "Up the Pyramid" and contains a passage headed, "Pollution as a road to nowhere". It states that the important question is not can man progress, but can we survive at all.

We have been warned about what we are doing. We have set up commissions, government agencies and bodies to study the situation; yet we go on and on polluting. This could be disastrous, as was said by a United States Senator. At times it seems that we are getting very close to disaster.

I suggest to the minister that before Bill C-144 is completely studied and reported back by the committee, he should call in all the expert opinion he can find. He should ask for interpretations and suggestions by the organizations which have made a study of this matter, including experts from the University of Toronto and almost every other university in Canada. Before the bill is brought back into this House, I sincerely hope a great many changes will be made to it. In this way, those who pollute the waters of Canada can be brought to task. I hope every step that can be taken will be taken to ensure that the waters of Canada remain pure and unpolluted.

21611—23

● (8:20 p.m.)

**Mr. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, having read and listened to the contributions to the debate on the Canada water bill from various parts of this House, I think all of us recognize that the problem of the control, management and proper use of our water resource in Canada is not only of concern but is of urgent importance to all Canadians.

Members from each corner of this House have expressed in their own way, sometimes effectively and at other times not too effectively, how they feel about the use and management of our water. Hopefully, as the bill moves into the committee stage all those who have spoken out so strongly and effectively will make their views known before the committee, which body will have the responsibility of coming back to this House at the report stage with the best possible Canada water bill that can be devised.

After listening to the various members who have spoken, it would seem that there are two or three areas in respect of which I might devote a little time this evening in an effort to clear up some of the misunderstandings which may exist at the moment. I believe I can leave to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) some of the specific answers to questions which have been raised by members. However, there are two areas with which I intend to deal at the moment.

The first is the question of national standards. There is a feeling among members in the House that there should be a national standard for water and in respect of water pollution. I think we might say briefly that this bill is intended to be designed for the management and use of our great national and natural resource—water. Although it is not so intended, it will no doubt be used as an anti-pollution measure.

I must emphasize strongly that it simply is not an anti-pollution bill. A bill framed to combat pollution alone would miss the point that we must seek a balance among all uses and all benefits. If one were to write a bill that would simply combat pollution, it would not be any more effective than one to control flood alone. Therefore, we have spoken of water resource management, comprehensive planning and water control management to indicate the breadth of this approach.

One of the facets of this broad management approach is, indeed, the setting of water qual-