

Water Resources

do not even know who put out this pamphlet to which I referred because I was so busy reading the suggestions and some of the answers contained in it. A suggestion has been made that we should have a new bill or revamp the present one in order to put some teeth in it. We should not wait for someone else to do this. It is further suggested that we should present the firms with a plan to prevent further pollution of any lakes, rivers or other water supply source.

I believe high priority should be given to this matter. I believe we should spend a significant amount of money on pollution control measures. It may be necessary to set up a special branch in the department for this purpose. I know in the great United States of America they are seriously worried about the water problem. In the next 25 years they will have to supply water to great cities like New York and Chicago. With proper planning, I believe we could supply that water. If the plan were well worked out I believe we could sell that water on a gallonage basis and not seriously lessen the supply of water in this country. I think we could sell the United States a great deal more water than they are getting at the present time. I think we could do this at reasonable prices and it would be a source of income. Some of this income could be used to train people to take more of an interest in this subject. This income would also help pay for some of the dams and hydro systems which are necessary for the transportation of this water from one part of the country to the other.

I think if we use our natural resources properly we will also have more water for our power network. Here again, cheaper power would mean that our industries might be able to afford to contribute more money to help pay for the over-all plan. The Prime Minister has assured us of his direct interest in this matter. The minister made a very fine speech in which he said what a wonderful thing it would be if we had lots of fresh water and could give this blessing to the rest of the world as well. I think we should get on with the job and stop hiding behind the excuse of no money, no co-operation or the problem of the constitution. We should send this bill to a committee composed of members who could keep an open mind about it. We should take the suggestions which I know will be made by members of the committee and then with courage, imagination and grit put this plan into effect. The type of popularity the minister and Parliament will end up with

in a very few years will be well worth while, and probably the industries and the taxpayers will welcome the amount of dollars appropriated in the next budget to handle this problem in an efficient manner.

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, I very seldom refuse a challenge. The hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Bigg) challenged us on this side of the House to stand up and speak up. I should like to outline a few observations I made while he was speaking. I like to listen to the hon. member for Pembina. He is always colourful and always has some purpose in his remarks. What struck me, Mr. Speaker, was that he did not look at you for two minutes during his speech. He watched his own colleagues. He turned around and, noticing there were only two or three members on the Conservative side, insisted on watching them during the whole of the speech in an effort to convince them that this is a very good bill and that they should be here to support the government at this time rather than somewhere else.

The hon. member challenged a member on the government side to get up and speak out. At the same time he said what we need is action and leadership, not talk, not discussion, not haggling and all this kind of thing. I can tell the hon. member that we have studied the problem. We have had our own ad hoc committees. We have discussed the matter with our ministers and their officials. We know what we are doing. We also think we need action now and not talk. We know the bill will be sent to the appropriate committee where we will have another opportunity to amend it. That is why we refuse to stand up here and talk for nothing. This would only contribute to wasting the time of the House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, to meet the challenge put to us by a member of the opposition, I will merely lend my voice to the Canadian municipalities which are also greatly concerned about the problem of water and air pollution. However, because certain provinces refuse for various reasons to co-operate adequately with the federal government, the means to fight pollution are denied to them.

It is not necessary to review the whole history of water and air pollution to conclude that we have now reached a critical point. This is a national, a provincial and a municipal problem which this bill attempts to remedy. But before undertaking anything the municipalities, the provinces, the federal gov-