

*Alleged Lack of Action to Combat Pollution*

only for damages, but a permanent injunction. This case eventually went to the Supreme Court of Canada. The defence of McKinnon Industries was that they could not remove the offensive matters from their plant and that it would not be in the public interest to close the plant because the city of St. Catharines depended largely on the payroll from McKinnon Industries. The Supreme Court of Canada did not accept that argument and issued a permanent injunction. Within a very few days the noxious fumes, which the company stated they could not remove, were suddenly removed very quickly.

This is the type of activity that is going on in southwestern Ontario, and I am sure in many other parts of Canada as well. In my own area there are very large deposits of limestone. The Canada Cement Company has a huge plant there, a \$50 million or \$60 million plant. There are plants of the North American Cyanamid Company, Domtar and others. As a result of their processes, these plants emit quantities of fine dust. Houses all over the area in the path of the prevailing wind are covered with a fine, gray dust.

The people in the area have been complaining for years. The Ontario government has taken some steps in this regard, but perhaps not enough. The result is that the people in that area are suffering great inconvenience, hardship and even damage to their health. The trees are not green in that area, they are gray. They are covered with dust.

It may be said that the average citizen has a remedy in civil law. He can sue the company, as the man in St. Catharines did, but most people are not familiar with the courts and lawyers are expensive when they have to deal with companies such as Domtar or Canada Cement. The public should not have to do this. The state should protect people from this kind of activity. There is no point in the federal government procrastinating and stating they will have another conference. These conferences go on endlessly, but never seem to get anywhere. Something must be done immediately because many people are being adversely affected. My area is only one small area. This situation is probably multiplied 50 or 100 times all through southwestern Ontario. Some steps must be taken now. Certainly, the federal government has the power to take the necessary steps. This can be done by means of the Criminal Code. This type of activity can be stopped if it is made an offence. If no agreement can be reached with the provinces

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

on what measures should be taken, the federal government, as the senior government of this country, should take the lead.

If the federal government does not want to use its powers under the Criminal Code, it can give very substantial tax reductions to processing firms so that this money can be invested to remove pollution that, as a result of their industrial processes, is going out of their chimneys. I am told by engineers that although expensive, this can be done. If the federal government does not wish to adopt the punitive approach, it can do something by means of a tax incentive. Most companies would not pay attention to any minor tax incentives. However, a substantial tax incentive would accomplish the required result. If that did not work, the government could then revert to using the Criminal Code. These are two suggestions.

There is no one in this house or in the city of Ottawa who is not familiar with the air pollution caused by that big company across the river, The E. B. Eddy Company. When walking to the parliament buildings in the morning, one gets the taste of sulphur dioxide coming from that plant. It is a great shame that our capital city should have probably the most offensive smells, if I can put it that way, of any city in the entire country.

I have talked to many tourists and visitors to this city. I have been told by them that Ottawa is a lovely place, but it is a great pity they can hardly breathe in the morning because of the terrible odours coming from across the river. This is largely sulphur dioxide which, as most people know, has a number of adverse effects on health. These are suggestions as to what could be done. The government must do something about them now. If the government wants to use the soft approach it can use the tax incentive method. If that does not work it can use the Criminal Code. Tens of thousands of people in southern Ontario are adversely affected by air pollution.

• (9:40 p.m.)

I next want to deal with the subject of noxious substances that are scattered at random around the country, of which d.d.t. is one. A pamphlet put out in the spring of 1969 by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, a very reputable organization, points out the possible dangers resulting from the use of d.d.t. I am not a research chemist and so cannot say, but all this may well be true. If what the pamphlet says is true, then certainly something