

Water Resources Programs

Greene,	O'Connell,
Groos,	Olson,
Guay (St. Boniface),	Orange,
Guilbault,	Osler,
Honey,	Otto,
Hopkins,	Pelletier,
Howard (Okanagan Boundary),	Penner,
Hymmen,	Perrault,
Jamieson,	Pilon,
Kaplan,	Portelance,
Kierans,	Pringle,
Laflamme,	Reid,
Laing (Vancouver South),	Richardson,
Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt),	Roberts,
Langlois,	Rochon,
Laniel,	Rock,
Leblanc (Laurier),	Roy (Timmins).
LeBlanc (Rimouski),	Roy (Laval).
Lefebvre,	Ryan,
Legault,	Smith (Saint-Jean),
Lessard (LaSalle),	Stafford,
Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean),	Stanbury,
MacEachen,	Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay),
McBride,	St. Pierre,
Mahoney,	Trudeau,
Major,	Trudel,
Marchand (Langelier),	Turner (London East),
Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo),	Turner (Ottawa-Carleton),
Morison,	Wahn,
Munro,	Walker,
Noël,	Watson,

• (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill C-202 to prevent pollution of areas of the Arctic waters adjacent to the mainland and islands of the Canadian Arctic, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time?

Mr. Baldwin: At the next sitting of this House.

• (3:30 p.m.)

WATER RESOURCES

PROVISION FOR MANAGEMENT INCLUDING RESEARCH AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs

[Mr. Speaker.]

relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources, be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as we enter the third reading stage of this bill on water resources management, it is time to review our progress and assess our present status. Bill C-144, an act for the management of the water resources of Canada, has been before this House and its committees for almost seven months. We had several days of debate on second reading on the general principles of the bill.

An hon. Member: Don't hold the bill up.

Mr. Orange: From February to May, the Standing Committee held 36 hearings and listened to dozens of expert witnesses. That committee made more than 20 significant changes in the bill and introduced a completely new section on the control of nutrients. Again, in this House, during the last month we have had several more days' debate on 25 motions to amend Bill C-144. In addition to these formal proceedings, we have held numerous discussions with the ten provincial governments and the act was a principal subject of discussion at the February Federal-Provincial Conference of First Ministers. The minister and I have had many discussions with industrial leaders. Our officials have held broad interdepartmental discussions on all aspects of the bill and, in addition, we have received and answered hundreds of letters from concerned citizens of every walk of life from across the entire land.

Seldom in the history of this House has a piece of legislation been so thoroughly analysed, so carefully debated and so methodically amended by the parliamentarians themselves. It is fitting that we have taken this bill so seriously and devoted so much time to it, because we are considering here the most important piece of resource legislation ever to come before this House. But, just as important, we have been debating all this while the basic strategy by which we must combat pollution, surely the most insidious and cancerous by-product of civilized man.

I must confess that occasionally I have been impatient with our progress, for our deliberations have sometimes seemed interminably long. But I know, Mr. Speaker, in retrospect, that the gravity of this problem and its importance, not only to water resources but to environmental problems generally, has