

*Water Resources*

quality code. I have looked carefully through the legislation and I see no provision in it at all dealing with this major problem that was referred to by the Minister of Fisheries.

My purpose in speaking today is to refresh the memory of the minister responsible for conducting this legislation through the House, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene). In his statement introducing the legislation, he delivered a speech that was typical of the flowery Irish oratory to which we have become accustomed. Throughout his career in the House of Commons, the hon. gentleman has established himself as a Lincolnesque Irish sort of orator, who can best be described in the well-known phrase, "He has kissed the Blarney Stone." I do not think that kissing the Blarney Stone is the sort of solution that is required in dealing with the problems of pollution of our rivers. I sit right across the floor from the hon. gentleman, and I have known him from the days when he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He and I received those foreign medals that were referred to by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) the other day and we could make a good night-fighter crew—

**Mr. Blair:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member would not wish to have the record misstate the facts. It has been made clear that the medals he and other gallant people have received will never be treated as foreign medals.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, I was merely quoting the statement of the Secretary of State, within whose department I understand this matter is being considered, and he did use the phrase "foreign medals", including those that were awarded for service in World War II. As I was saying, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was a navigator and I was a pilot, so we could form a very good night-fighter crew. Maybe we are dealing in the dark with respect to the present legislation, and perhaps I can throw some light on the matter.

We should recall the public discussion and consideration of this subject that has taken place over the last 20 years. These discussions have brought us to the position where everybody is concerned. I am not just referring to novices interested in alarmist talk, but I include the most responsible people in the field of renewable resource conservation and development, those who have been in the vanguard in warning us, we are reaching the crisis point because of our failure to deal

adequately with the problem not only in Canada but more particularly south of the border in the United States of America. I repeat that everybody is concerned.

There is another old Irish saying that the sweetest memories of life are the recollections of things forgotten. Obviously, the minister has forgotten much of what has transpired in the past, or has not been aware of it. Certainly, this would apply to the Minister of Fisheries in the light of what he said yesterday.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has stated that the decade of the 70's will be known as the pollution decade when at long last governments not only in this country but in other countries will come to grips with this critical problem. Actually, I think it was the decade of the 60's when governments and responsible public leaders became deeply concerned over the dangerous trends that were becoming all too obvious in the area of our natural resources.

The United States talked frequently about the necessity of conserving resources for the future. A private organization under that name emerged, with the intent of alerting governmental officials to the growing problem. The Secretary of the Interior under the former Democratic government, in fact under several Democratic governments, the Hon. Stuart Udall, wrote a very significant book that received considerable attention in the early 60's. Its title was "The Quiet Crisis," the crisis that had come upon us almost in the night as it were, and he was no novice who was trying to grab newspaper headlines. He was a man knowledgeable in the field, who had the responsibility of leading the fight for better conservation measures in the great republic to the south of us.

In Canada the study of the problems of renewable resources focussed around the Resources for Tomorrow Conference held in 1961, and because of the body of information brought together at that conference it was expected that remedial action would be forthcoming within a few years. We have waited until 1970 and, as hon. members have indicated, there is not much of substance provided in the bill now before us.

The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) indicated that nothing had been done in past years. Obviously, he has not read the three volume report that came out of the Resources for Tomorrow Conference. It is because of this that I want to review briefly the record of the past two decades.