

Water Resources

wonder what is the intent behind this suggested fine of \$5,000. Is it a deterrent, or is it a punitive measure? Has the accumulation of such fines been designated for financing anti-pollution work, or will the money simply go into the general fund of a province?

I am of the opinion that the bill should be withdrawn and redrafted to give it a national purpose and some hope of being an effective instrument. As it stands, it will do very little in only a small part of a very large, very complex and very urgent problem that affects all Canadians and, indeed, the whole future of the Canadian people.

This bill should be only one of a series of bills designed to wage determined and vigorous war on the pollution of our natural environment. Environmental control is not something that can be divided and sub-divided between elements of our environment and between various governmental jurisdictions. The enemy is one, and must be fought as one by all Canadians.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it is the constitutional and moral duty of the government of Canada to prepare, lead and sustain the fight. In my opinion, this bill is hopelessly inadequate. What provisions it has are weak and full of future pitfalls. It is notable chiefly for what it does not contain. Let us kill it and then work together to prepare a proper measure that we will find useful in the coming years.

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, we are now studying Bill C-144 entitled: "An Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources."

As far as this bill is concerned, I have in hand a statement made by Mr. Richard Nelson, a well-known citizen of Hull, urging us to look seriously into this problem. At the very beginning of my remarks, I should like to quote his statement to show you that pollution reaches into every corner in Canada, and even right here in the Canadian capital area. That statement appeared in the July 4, 1969 issue of *Le Droit*, and I quote:

And as if to back up our scientists, two sad or downright tragic pieces of news were reported in the newspapers during the ensuing days: the first one, the poisoning of the Rhine waters over a distance of 150 miles. All aquatic wildlife actually perished because of damage caused by an insecticide. Two countries, Germany and Holland, had to resort to their water reserves because of the

potential effects of water pollution on humans. For her part Holland considered the event a national disaster.

The other no less disturbing fact is the pollution of the waters of the Rideau River. For the past week, according to Dr. Nelson, it has been impossible to use the beaches because of slime. Would-be bathers would have come out black with oil. And the worst of it all is that the source of this evil is not known, "at least officially". For the city of Ottawa, this is a major disaster, unthinkable in a region that is not industry-saturated and where lakes and mountains are a mere bicycle ride away. The Ottawa, into which the Rideau flows, is in no better condition. Pollutants discharged into it also spoil the waters all the way to Lake St. Louis in Montreal. Where, then, is that pure water our forefathers drank?

Mr. Speaker, I could also add that in this region of Lévis and Quebec City, the St. Lawrence river, where small fishermen used to increase their revenue by fishing, is so polluted, in particular because of oil waste dumped in it by ships, that fishing is no more possible, even at Rivière-du-Loup. Fishermen are therefore obliged to forget about this revenue which allowed them to make ends meet.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, it is true that most governments have fairly well succeeded in their fight against water pollution. The federal government itself can say that it has passed four different pieces of legislation in this respect, namely the Fisheries Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Canada Shipping Act, and the Criminal Code.

In Newfoundland, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is the prime responsible for the control of water pollution under a section of the health and welfare act.

The Nova Scotia water act has been amended so as to give the government the power to approve the building of water and sewer systems. On the basis of what had been done in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia has created a water administration whose jurisdiction includes all water bodies in the province.

As for Prince Edward Island, no special step has been taken against water pollution.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission, which is responsible for control and regulation of water pollution by industries and municipalities, must approve all sewer and water installations.

Since its inception in 1957, the Commission has assisted more than 200 municipalities in the construction of sewage treatment plants.

The Provincial Hygiene Control Board, established as far back as 1935, is responsible for the implementation of water anti-pollu-