

*Criminal Code*

Canada with scenic areas as beautiful as any in the world. The truths that we have failed to realize are now confronting us, and something must be done to observe them.

I have another quotation here from the *Ottawa Citizen* of December 30, 1959, dealing with a conference in Chicago with respect to the pollution of waters. This article is entitled:

Hundreds of chemicals pollute drinking water.

Dr. H. W. Poston of the United States public health service's water supply and control division said at that time:

"We do not have reliable methods for predicting their effect on man. We don't know how to remove viruses from treated water. We don't know the effect on the human system of the constant accumulation of small increments of present-day chemicals".

Poston called for immediate and expanded research to find ways of assuring safe, plentiful water, in a report to the American association for the advancement of science.

Then I have a very interesting editorial from the *Gazette* of February 13, 1960:

Man the Great Contaminator

Man has always been a great contaminator and despoiler of the places in which he works, lives and plays.

And, according to scientists gathered in Chicago recently for the annual meeting of the American association for the advancement of science, he has not mended his ways.

One of the most important events at the Chicago meeting was a symposium by a group of biologists, engineers, conservation experts and land and water development experts on the use and abuse of the great lakes of North America.

And speaker after speaker stressed the fact that in the past 50 years or so man has succeeded in contaminating and despoiling this vast body of water—over 95,000 square miles touching eight states and two Canadian provinces—to such an extent that vast areas of it are useless and even dangerous.

And the tragedy is, they said, that there seems to be no over-all planning, no co-ordinated effort on the part of the various states and provinces and the two federal governments concerned, to stop the relentless process of erosion and contamination which is ruining one of nature's greatest gifts to her ungrateful children.

I think the writer of that editorial explained the situation very clearly indeed. I have another quotation here from the proceedings of the national conference on water pollution in British Columbia; it is a quotation from the remarks of Mr. P. A. Larkin, chief fisheries biologist, B.C. game commission. This is what he had to say:

We feel that there should come a day, if we plan properly, when it is accepted that no pollution will exist without the permission of a responsible authority and that such permission has been given in the public interest in accordance with sound principles of resource use planning...

—I have taken these excerpts from what has been said on this subject by well informed persons. Then he goes on to say:

[Mr. Herridge.]

The existing legislation consists of a number of federal and provincial statutes which are designed to serve special interests of a particular resource. As such, while they are effective to a certain degree as preventive measures, collectively they are overburdened with overlapping provisions and they are completely inadequate as instruments of achieving our objective of planned water use. They should be replaced by broad legislation which would observe the necessary dual purpose of protecting special interests where it is desirable to do so, and at the same time, assuring the general purpose of proper water use.

Then he goes on to say:

The panel has noted the trend in most advanced countries and states toward the creation of a single agency to control and abate a particular type of pollution, for instance, water pollution, in a geographical area.

That is one thing that we must develop in Canada as the result of a public understanding of this question, of research and legislative action on the part of the federal and provincial governments.

I have one more quotation, Mr. Speaker, to indicate the current and almost daily interest in this problem. This is an article written by Mr. Walter Gray, that elegant, effulgent, erudite writer on the effluvium of polluted water, in the *Globe and Mail* for yesterday, June 1. This is a most interesting article entitled:

A perfect example of pollution.

This *Globe and Mail* reporter deals with the problem generally, but he mentions Ottawa in particular in the first paragraph:

It is to the nation's shame that swirling about the foot of parliament hill, the focal point of Canada's capital, is one of the country's most highly polluted rivers. The Ottawa river, rising fresh and clear in the forest lands of northern Ontario and Quebec, surges through this city choked full of wastes left by this day and age.

In my opinion, the present polluted state of the Ottawa river results from the ignoring of this problem on national and provincial levels of government. Before I proceed, I have in my hand, Mr. Speaker, the text of a speech entitled, "Water, a Resource for Tomorrow", by the Hon. Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, to the Ontario conference on co-ordinated water pollution control, Toronto, November 30, 1960. I might say this is an excellent speech, and I read it with interest. I am sure the minister has a keen interest in this question. Indicating to the assembled gathering the interest of the government in this matter the minister said, and I quote from the text of his speech:

Four years ago in the House of Commons Prime Minister Diefenbaker, then a member of the opposition, spoke on water pollution. He said in part:

"I believe that in the realm of God's richest bounty, clean river water should have a high place,