

*Environmental Contamination*

put something on the stack? And so on. If industry had proper guidelines, taking into account all the things we know about the environment and chemicals, it would not be very hard to go to the engineer and give an undertaking that no more than so many parts per million will go into the water and that the exhaust from the pipes will not be offensive.

● (1750)

I come from an area where recently a great number of pulp mills have been built. Nobody likes to talk about it. You have to be very careful, particularly as a politician, in the city of Prince George when you talk about the offensive odour there most of the year. People say it is the smell of money, the smell of success. However, there are a large number of people who would rather be poor than live in an area where there is this constant offensive odour. Incidentally, it is not harmful to health.

The minister says that with the new law on our statute books we will be in a position to demand information. That might be so, but someone will have to lay a complaint because there is nothing in the bill that compels anyone to tell the minister what he is doing. There will have to be a witch-hunt. Or course, it will be after the fact when the complaint is laid. The legislation will work retroactively and this will be disastrous to industry.

As I said, the federal government had the opportunity to move into this field and be a leader. It could have consulted with the provinces, but it did not do that. As a result, we not only have 12 or 13 different environmental standards, but we have dual standards which each government follows. The federal government uses its own standards for activities it carries on in the Northwest Territories and other northern parts of our country, and it has developed standards which industry must follow. All these things create serious conflicts between rational people who recognize the problem, people who would rather eliminate it but do not have the tools to do so.

The minister said industry would have to bear the cost, that there would be no cost to the taxpayer. That all sounds exciting these days. However, I must ask about the small businessmen who cannot afford the expensive laboratory and research staff it takes to provide the minister with information he will now be able to demand under this bill. I would have liked the minister to be honest and say it is going to be very expensive for Canadians to live in a healthy environment. I could live with that because it is a very serious problem. I would like to see the minister come up with programs that would help industry in the first instance, before the factory is built, to research the product they are going to produce, and help them to instal the necessary abatement equipment. Such a program could be attached to a bill like C-3 which, although it is a small step, is certainly the right step in a marathon walk.

I would like to see the federal government become more energetic in sharing with the provinces and municipalities. I know all kinds of things are now being done.

Municipalities are the biggest offenders, not usually industry. It is areas where people gather to live. The municipalities are the biggest offenders in many areas on environmental pollution. There should be programs by which the junior governments could have access to the federal coffers and obtain the help they so badly need to keep the environment in our cities and towns liveable. I do not see any further intention on the part of the government in this bill to pass that kind of help on to the junior governments.

The minister said this bill provides for the creation of ad hoc boards of review, and that this provision was included at the request of industry. He said it will give any company or individual affected by this legislation an opportunity to state his or her case. Again, Mr. Speaker, that will happen after the fact.

The minister said producers, importers and so on will have an avenue of appeal open to them. He said the industry-oriented boards of review will have powers and responsibility similar to those already enjoyed by the board of review under our Canadian Hazardous Products Act. This is all fine and dandy, but as I have said, these measures are all designed to come into being after the fact.

I do not think the minister would find too much opposition from any member of this House or any party if he were to bring in strong legislation compelling industry and business to keep government aware of their future activities. However, the cost and the onus should not be passed on to industry. We must be prepared environmentally because otherwise it is going to cost us money. Steps taken by municipalities and some of the activities carried on by the provinces will cost money. These resources must come from somewhere. Until we are ready to share with these governments, we cannot expect the kind of co-operation the minister obviously must expect if he thinks everyone will come running to the federal government from here on to provide them with information on all the activities they intend to carry on in the future. I notice it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Oberle:** I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know what length of time the hon. member has in mind, but we are prepared to sit a few minutes if it will make it possible to finish second reading of this bill.

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to carry on for a few moments if the hon. member wants to continue his speech.

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, my remarks are nearly finished. However, I wish to call it six o'clock so that if any of my colleagues wish to carry this debate on tomorrow they will have the opportunity to do so.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** It being six o'clock, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.