

Adjournment Debate

processes of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and dual-media filtration.

From what I have already said everyone can understand the concern of the people of Banff, those who have already contracted the disease and those who must live with the possibility of doing so. If the water is not treated within a reasonable time, it will mean a reduced number of tourists for Banff and tourism is the life blood of Banff. The Banff water system now has no facilities except chlorination to control the Giardia lamblia cysts, and chlorination becomes less effective at temperatures below 5 degrees Centigrade. It is therefore evident that the only way to really purify the Banff water supply is through a filtration water system.

Parks Canada engaged a well-known engineering firm in Calgary to study the situation and a report was issued in July, 1982. The firm of engineers state:

Current knowledge of treatment processes used to control these cysts indicates that only a relatively sophisticated treatment plant would provide removal with an acceptable level of risk. At the same time such a plant would produce water meeting the drinking water standards all year round. This system, generally known as a 'conventional water treatment plant', would use coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection processes.

The engineers recommended six alternatives, the preferred one involving the Bow River gravels aquifer only. The initial cost of Phase I of this would be \$10.2 million. This involves the development of the gravels in the Bow River including collector wells and a pump station, construction of a direct filtration water treatment plant on Tunnel Mountain, relocation of the existing heating plant to Tunnel Mountain, construction of raw water transmission main connecting the water intake of the water treatment plant and construction of a treated water storage reservoir relocating the present system to standby.

From the above it should be noted that the cost will be substantial, but the Department has been taking more than \$6 million out of Banff each year and the water supply is a basic requirement. Every possible step should be taken to eliminate this parasite from the water of Banff at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Denis Ethier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, it is certainly nice to see at least one Tory who wants to sit beyond six o'clock.

Mr. Mitges: How many have you got?

Mr. Ethier: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has shown continuing interest in the problem of Giardia Lamblia which has been causing discomfort to the residents of Banff. He has asked when the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) will authorize a water filtration plant in Banff to eliminate the possibility of the water supply being a source of the parasite.

[Translation]

As the Minister explained to the Hon. Member in the House on February 8 of this year, Environment Canada asked a firm of consulting engineers, Stanley Associated Limited, to prepare a study to determine how the problem could be corrected.

• (1805)

[English]

The Department is now following the recommendations of that study, recommendations which will lead Banff to a parasite-free water supply.

Of all the options presented in the engineering study, each included the construction of a storage reservoir for the water. A contract for the construction of this reservoir has been prepared, and it is expected that the reservoir will be ready for use by the fall of 1983.

The Hon. Member knows that because of the efforts of Parks Canada staff in drilling wells and bringing water into the system the incidence of Giardia has already been much reduced. The consultants recommended wells as the best source of Giardia-free water. This is why Parks Canada proceeded with the drilling of the wells immediately. Only in the event that volume from the wells was not sufficient would treatment of surface water by filtration become necessary. If these measures are proved to be ineffective, then installing the most expensive option, that of a water filtration plant, would be the next consideration.

I am happy, however, to report that the results of very recent test drilling have indicated that more than sufficient volume of well water is available to meet the requirements of the town.

The Minister understands the Member's sense of urgency in having this problem dealt with as speedily as possible. Once the new source is brought on stream with the existing wells this year, and after the reservoir has been constructed, the possibility of the town water being a source of Giardia lamblia infection should be eliminated.

DISASTERS—TRAINING OF CREWS—REGULATORY CHANGES. (B)
APPEARANCE OF MINISTERS BEFORE COMMITTEE

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, a year ago today one of the worst marine tragedies in the history of Canada occurred on the east coast when the *Ocean Ranger*, an oil drilling rig, foundered and capsized in a bad storm with the loss of 84 lives. Many of those people had lived in my district of St. John's West.

A week ago we questioned the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) in the House, in light of the report that had been made in the United States by a national board of that Government. It found that the tragedy was due to the failure of the management of the oil drilling rig to properly train the crew. It found that the crew was not properly trained in the operation of the ballast system of the rig. It found that they were not properly trained how to manually operate the ballast control system if anything happened to the electrical system. It found that there was no proper safety equipment and the like available.

There have been no findings by any Government agency in Canada. The Government of Canada has never come before this House or before a committee of this House to tell us what,