

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde): I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-177, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1969.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the house that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Public Service—Committee studying increases in pensions of retired civil servants; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Hear, hear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):—Pensions—Consideration of universal principle of escalation; the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe)—Economic Regional Development—Request for Sherbrooke area to be considered as a special area.

It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills, notices of motions.

PUBLIC BILLS

AIR POLLUTION

MEASURE TO ASSIST IN ABATEMENT

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale) moved that Bill C-22, to control air pollution, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the affluent society of this half of the 20th century is increasingly becoming an effluent society. Technological changes and advances in our industrial age have been achieved at the cost of the deterioration of our environment resulting in the

Air Pollution

pollution of air and water, the congestion of our environment and the destruction of wild nature. Increased population and unchecked exploitation of our natural resources have threatened the quality of life on this planet earth. Life on earth exists in a thin layer of soil, water and atmosphere near the surface of the planet. This layer and the life it contains form the biosphere, which is the sphere of life upon earth.

• (5:00 p.m.)

Man and his environment form an ecological system in which tolerance, adaptation and interdependence are factors which are responsible for the success of this system. However, many scientists and people concerned with life on this planet are now worried that a deterioration in the quality of the air that man breathes will have a grave effect on man's ability to adapt in a polluted environment. Most of the contaminants in our non-biological system are air pollutants. Air pollution has been caused to a great degree by man's own activity. Our skills and technology have resulted in new waste products with which man must interrelate successfully in order to survive.

Today man has noticed that he is discharging more into the environment than can be handled by nature or tolerated by his own ecology. Air pollution is today one of the most urgent problems confronting industrialized society. In Canada, air pollution is also a vital and urgent national problem. Pollutants in the air are causing injury to people, animals, vegetation and property.

The progressive complexity of air pollution brought about by increasing urbanization, industrialization and by fuel-driven vehicles calls for intensified national leadership and effective means to ensure clean air, a most precious natural resource.

In the past few years scientists, engineers and medical specialists have repeatedly and clearly brought to our attention the incidence of air pollution and the resultant health hazards. Last year at a public meeting in Toronto organized by a group of citizens called "Group Action To Stop Air Pollution", Dr. Alfred Bernhart, associate professor of civil engineering at the University of Toronto, described how much air pollution there is in the city of Toronto and the extent of damage that it produces. He estimated that in one year Torontonians, by burning 8.8 million tons of coal, oil, heating gas, garbage and also three million tons of gasoline and diesel oil, emit 5.2 trillion cubic feet of polluted exhaust