

*Water Resources*

the province of Ontario. I do not know about the other provinces, but I know the areas along the Grand River and the Saugeen River have been improved tremendously as a result of efforts by the municipality. The people interested in their areas were able to get into the act and do a tremendous job of providing conservation programs.

That was not enough. We knew there was need for more teeth in a bill to make it possible for law enforcement officers to bring to task those who unwittingly or knowingly pollute our rivers and are responsible for their condition today. The bill now before us was introduced with great fanfare. After talking about this situation for many years, we now have Bill C-144 which, as it says, is an act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research, planning and implementation of programs relating to conservation, development and utilization of water resources. When we consider the various parts of the bill that begin with the word "whereas", it would seem that this might be the perfect bill. Considering the high-sounding phrases and window-dressing by the minister in introducing the bill, the people of Canada should expect great things from this measure.

It is rather difficult to understand why some of the agencies we have had in this country have not done a great deal to correct the situation. Rather than a bill with all this window-dressing, we should have a bill that would co-ordinate all the government agencies involved in this question. Had that been the case, we might have found some substance in this bill. Let me mention some of the government agencies that are involved. There is nothing in this bill about correlating all the services we have, and there are a great many.

In the federal government alone we have the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources; the Department of Agriculture, which takes in the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and its administration; the Department of Forestry and Rural Development, which takes in the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act and its administration and the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act. We also have the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transport, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of External Affairs and the International Joint Commission.

[Mr. Howe.]

Let us consider the federal government agencies. We have Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation which makes loans for sewage-treatment plants, the Municipal Development and Loans Board which makes loans for water treatment, the Atlantic Development Board and the National Research Council with its committee on water pollution research.

We must also remember the international bodies. There are the International Joint Commission, boards of control, engineering boards, advisory boards on pollution, the Council for the International Hydrologic Decade, the International Committee on Irrigation and Drainage and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.

We should also keep in mind provincial agencies. In every province we have agencies set up to deal with conservation and the pollution of our rivers and lakes. If this bill is to be of any advantage to areas which require assistance, we should establish an organization with this end in mind, rather than all these local agencies. Perhaps we could correlate all the provincial, municipal and federal bodies into one tremendous organization that could attack this problem and find the solution so urgently required in our nation.

It is interesting to note that the bill points out that for a fee one can pollute the waters of this nation. This measure is not aimed at stopping pollution; it is aimed at licensing pollution. This situation should be rectified. We have been discussing Canada's water resources for years. We must continue to discuss it. We must make sure that this is the best possible bill and that it comes to grips with this great national problem.

I have in my hand the report of the Special Committee on Land Use in Canada which was handed down in 1963. One recommendation of that committee was the following:

That the work of various agencies in the study and management of our water resources be expanded—specifically that work relating to drainage and erosion problems, irrigation, levels of water tables and present and likely future water requirements.

That report was published in 1963, yet in 1970 we are discussing a Canada Water Act. I also have the report of a study made by the University of Toronto, Great Lakes Institute, entitled "The Great Lakes and their problems". This study was conducted in 1965. In its introductory remarks, with reference to our Great Lakes it is stated:

The Great Lakes constitute the largest single reserve of fresh water in the world and although