

Water Resources

necessary. Two such actions are provided for in the bill.

First, if a recalcitrant individual, firm, or agency persists in depositing wastes in contravention of the prohibition, specifically included in this federal statute, a fine of \$5,000 per day for the initial day and each subsequent day can be levied in the courts. Furthermore, the courts are empowered to order compliance and to order cessation of activities if necessary.

Second, if a province steadfastly refuses to co-operate where the federal jurisdiction is clear, and where there is a significant national interest involved, the federal government reserves unto itself the right to move unilaterally on certain aspects of water resource management.

No other position is open to us. We must have the ultimate power to clean up international and boundary waters and major inter-provincial rivers. In particular, we must be able to say to our southern neighbours soon "We are cleaning up and managing our portion of these shared waters and we expect you to do the same." I believe that under the aegis of the Canada Water Act we can in fact develop these international waters jointly with the United States and thereby gain a greater net benefit for both countries. We could not allow an unco-operative provincial government to veto such action indefinitely to the detriment of Canada as a whole. But this situation, we expect, will never occur, as the enthusiasm and co-operation we have to date found in the provinces indicates very clearly that unilateral action is not likely to be required.

These are the general provisions of the Act for comprehensive planning based upon maximizing the utilization of a water basin in the best interests of the people who live along it, and of Canada as a whole. I am sure we all agree, as I have tried to state earlier in general terms, the single gravest water problem we face today is the problem of pollution. To this end, we have included in the bill a number of special provisions for dealing with pollution.

There are only four things man can do with the vast tonnage of waste he produces daily; burn it, bury it, wash it away, or put it into orbit. He is busy doing all four but by far the greatest quantity is washed away into our lakes, rivers and groundwater, each draining eventually into the sea.

The problem before us is to devise a method compatible with our free enterprise system that efficiently and effectively yields

[Mr. Greene.]

optimal levels of water quality under a wide variety of conditions. We have also sought to leave industry a series of options and yet to distribute the cost of pollution abatement equitably throughout society. We have sought also to allow local views and opinions to be registered without permitting any region to choose the course toward gradual environmental degradation.

The essential elements of this federal model for pollution control, or as we prefer to call it, water quality management, are as follows:

1. We will designate each water body jointly after consultation with the provinces, and where necessary with the provinces, on a sequential basis so that we can concentrate on the most serious pollution problems first.

2. We will negotiate agreements establishing joint water quality management agencies for each area or collection of areas using provincial machinery as the basis whenever and wherever it is adequate and adaptable. Local participation, which is essential, will be strongly encouraged.

3. The senior levels of government will jointly establish guidelines and procedures to be used by these agencies in arriving at water quality objectives, effluent standards, effluent fees and treatment charges. This procedure is provided in lieu of rigid uniform standards, which economists and ecologists both insist are inefficient and impractical in a country as large and varied as Canada.

4. Each agency will be instructed to develop and to submit water quality management plans for the designated area recommending the optimal level of water quality for a series of target dates and taking into account the full range of future uses for the water body considered. This same plan will project future waste loads along the entire water body, the degree of treatment required, the schedule of fees for the deposit of wastes in the water body, the additional waste treatment facilities required, and charges for the use of these facilities.

5. These plans will be submitted to the federal government and the provincial government in question for approval. At this point the senior levels of government can insist upon equity, consistency, and avoid the dangers of pollution havens by insisting upon high levels of quality and treatment.

• (4:10 p.m.)

6. Once the plan is approved the agency would be instructed to implement it and enforce the standards contained therein.