

The minister went to some lengths to point out that the bill will be effective because the polluter will pay. The bill implies that the polluter in most instances in industry and, as a financial penalty is to be imposed on the polluter, industry will be more circumspect in its plans and programs for industrial growth and expansion. The difficulty from my reading of the bill is, how are we to bring about enforcement? The bill is pretty well permissive and voluntary in this aspect.

● (1530)

How are we going to get the cooperation of industry? The suggestion seems to be that the advisory committees will keep a watching brief on the whole problem. The advisory committees will report to the government and, having received the report, the government will move in to take the necessary corrective action.

It would be much more useful and effective if somewhere in the bill it could be stated that industry itself has some responsibility of giving notice of its intentions to move into an area where the synthetic products involved might be the source of contamination. This would anticipate the problem. It would lock the door before the horse is stolen in the figurative sense, and would have the desired effect of preventing the difficulty rather than trying to resolve it after it has developed.

If we are looking for a body that would look at the whole aspect of the problem, not only intergovernmental, but the continuing relationships between industry and governments, the resource ministers council with its qualified staff which has been carrying out studies in the area of pollution control for the past number of years would be most useful and effective in this regard.

The greatest difficulty in administering the bill will be the fact that there is an inherent conflict between industrial growth and the problem of pollution control. We had this brought forcibly to our attention in recent months when Canada and the world was faced with an energy crisis. Immediately there was a tendency to relax the emphasis of pollution control through the use of energy. We had a discussion in the House. Certain federal government departments were violating some of the standards laid down for the use of energy and domestic fuels that did not meet the restrictions on sulphur content laid down by government anti-pollution programs.

Here is where we will face the real difficulty of bringing the bill into effective implementation. We will not only need the voluntary control of industry, but there will have to be in the legislation some built-in safeguards to ensure that industrial polluters will not only be threatened with the necessity of paying for pollution, but will have some responsibility for reporting in anticipation of any particular industrial activity and growth that will constitute a threat.

I know the bill provides for the payment of any expenditures with regard to research in this area devolving upon the industrialists. This will make it all the more difficult to control these industrial polluters who because of the heavy financial penalty imposed by the terms of the legislation which makes them responsible for paying the cost of research, might be tempted to conceal the information

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that their activities are going to constitute a threat to man's environment.

Not only is it going to be necessary to get the support of industry by voluntary and, to a certain extent, legislative action if there is to be any hope of successful enforcement of the legislation, but there must be an assurance of continuous public support. In most instances, where the legislation is going to apply, it will be as a result of information laid by the concerned public.

It seems that as the issue has developed over the years, the public are ahead of governments in this regard. There has been pressure from the Canadian public. Indeed, very concerned people around the world have forced governments, which in many instances have been reluctant, to come to grips by introducing legislation to deal with the problem. It is the public protest and the public voluntary action that has gradually forced governments to move into this area. The fact that the United Nations has seen fit to move into the area of environmental control by setting up a separate secretariat indicates that it is not only a problem peculiar to Canada and North America, but that it is a problem of growing concern around the world.

One of the most hopeful developments is the growing concern of young people. It is the young people of Canada and around the world who are most concerned about the control of pollution on the spaceship earth. They are, of course, most concerned about the future prospects for the quality of life on the earth in which we live, move and have our being.

When this bill goes to committee, I hope we will have the opportunity of hearing from some of the organized groups in this country which have from time to time sent excellent briefs expressing their concern and indicating a considerable knowledge of the problem as the result of intensive study. I trust that when the bill goes into committee we might be able to hear from some of these voices from the people.

One final point I wish to make before concluding my remarks concerns the international implications. In the first instance the problem of environmental contamination as it involves the renewable resources of air and water, is respecter of international boundaries. I hope that at the committee stage there will not only be discussion on how we get provincial cooperation and the cooperation of private industry, but that there will be some consideration of cooperation, particularly within North America, across the international boundary. There are many areas of Canada which are crossed by international boundary waters.

I wish to mention one particular problem that concerns the part of Canada I represent in the House of Commons, the Souris River and the potential threat that arises from a project south of the border in the state of North Dakota that has been underway for a number of years. The Garrison Dam represents a major multi-million dollar project to control the waters of that area of the United States. Eventually it will involve the Souris and the Red River which crosses the international boundary.

● (1540)

Obviously, if the project of the United States is to proceed as anticipated by the planners in the American