

*Water Resources*

and not properly looked after. This is where I would like to see the federal government involved and working in concert with the Ontario government to eliminate pollution. They have their areas of responsibility. Let them do something about it. If there is to be an overall policy on water—

● (9:40 p.m.)

This raises the problem of jurisdiction. The Ontario minister is pointing out that there appears to be an evasion, as far as he is concerned, in respect of Ontario government projects in the municipalities; the federal government has neglected its responsibility. There should be a shift to assuming its responsibility, working in co-operation with provincial governments, to take care of some of the problems of municipalities.

His next point is with regard to the question of uniform standards across Canada. He pointed out that the federal government does not recommend uniform standards across Canada—this, of course, concerns the provinces—and said:

I realize that the same standards should not apply to some small lake or stream in northern Ontario as, for instance, Toronto harbour—this is something for the experts to decide. But if there are too many variables, too many different standards, this will lead to trouble. You will give certain areas of the provinces, because of the nature of their waterways, an advantage over others.

He gives an example as follows:

—in other words industry which is polluting may say, "well, if the waterway that we wanted to establish our plant on in Ontario is class A...we had better look for a class C one...as defined by the Canada Water Act".

This is a problem in not recommending uniform standards across the country, and it is certainly of concern to the minister. The Ontario minister's final point was that there were no incentives given industry by the federal government. He suggested that there should not be any imposition of federal sales tax in respect of pollution equipment. He went further and said there should be no municipal taxes on buildings that house pollution equipment. He stated on behalf of the province of Ontario that he was prepared to recommend this to his government, and hoped the federal government would take another look at the suggestion of lifting the 11 per cent sales tax on pollution equipment and buildings that house such equipment.

Hon. members have seen, from the short analysis I have given of this interview with the Ontario Minister of Energy and Resources

[Mr. Gilbert.]

Management, that there are four or five points with which he is very concerned. These include the lack of national federal standards, the lack of incentive and the existence of so many federal agencies with not one federal authority dealing with the problem of pollution. I hope when we get to the committee the minister will consider these problems and solve them to the advantage and benefit of all Canadians.

I suppose at the very basis of the problem is money. The federal government has been very cautious in respect of committing itself to contributing any money toward the implementation of its ideas. The minister should come clean, so to speak, and give us an idea of how much money the government is prepared to spend to meet this problem. I hope the minister will have at the committee meeting a representative of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It is very commendable that we advance moneys to municipalities for sewage treatment and disposal plants. In September and October of this year there was a directive to CMHC not to accept any more loan applications for sewage treatment plants.

I should like the Minister without Portfolio to assure us that if we are really going to deal with this problem and battle and solve pollution, he will guarantee so many million dollars to municipalities for sewage treatment projects. Therein may lie the key to the solution of this problem. So much for the attitude of the minister of Ontario regarding this bill.

May I now direct the attention of the House to the attitude of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. This short statement was made by Mr. R. C. Passmore on November 21, 1969, after this bill was introduced in the House:

Although the Act seemingly bristles with defences against water pollution it actually nips only cautiously at the periphery of the problem.

Then he set forth some of the salient features of the Act in this way:

It would allow the minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to enter into arrangements with the provinces and form joint committees which would consult on water resource problems, develop programs and co-ordinate their implementation.

It would allow establishment of regional federal-provincial boards wherever there is a "significant national interest" in water resources; collect information on their quality, distribution, and use; conduct research and undertake programs designed to conserve and develop water resources.

It would allow establishment of joint federal-provincial water quality management agencies in regions or water basins where water quality