

was rejected unanimously. Instead, the committee favoured research and persuading the provinces.

The hon. member also said that we must collect air, water and soil sample data in order to assist in the solution of this problem. If my hon. friend for Parry Sound-Muskoka had gone with us on the trip to Burlington he would have seen that that is exactly what has been going on for some months. There, they are carrying out the very research which he says ought to be carried on.

In conclusion I say, Mr. Speaker, that no single person and no single country has all the answers. If someone had all the answers I am sure all the rest of the world would quickly seek advice to solve this naughty problem. Frankly, every example of pollution mentioned in this house today has been of provincial concern. All have been provincial matters, the only exception being the Niagara River, which is an international matter.

Mr. Peters: That's right. Blame it on the provincial governments.

Mr. Chappell: I submit that the federal government has given strong leadership. We are well advanced through our research facilities in setting standards which we hope the provinces will adopt.

Mr. Speaker, because this matter is of national importance, because many hon. members from all parts of Canada wish to speak on it and because three times today hon. members of the opposition have gone beyond their allotted speaking time by obtaining unanimous consent to extend their remarks, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand):

That pursuant to standing order 6(5)(a) this sitting do continue until 11 p.m. for the purpose of considering the business presently under consideration.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those who object to this motion will please rise.

And more than ten members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, like the previous speaker, I come from the southwestern part of Ontario. This is probably the most affected part of Canada from the point of view of pollution, chiefly because there is the greatest concentration of the

Alleged Lack of Action to Combat Pollution
population of Canada, in the area from Oshawa to Windsor. There is the greatest number of industries in that area and, oddly enough, probably the greatest amount of water considering the area is surrounded by the Great Lakes. Since there has been great public alarm, with justification, regarding the pollution of the waters in this area, and even the soil, this whole question of pollution is of the greatest importance and interest to the people in southwestern Ontario.

It has often been stated that perhaps the greatest problem we have in Canada is our outmoded constitution. That probably is quite true. This outmoded constitution has been used by this and other governments as a means of endless procrastination, for doing nothing and buck-passing. The federal government says, "we will have to talk to the provinces; we have to discuss it". This has gone on almost indefinitely.

Mr. Perrault: It started when your government was in power.

Mr. Nesbitt: There is that loquacious member from British Columbia! I hope he rises in his place instead of always shouting from his seat.

Mr. Perrault: Tell us about when your party was in power.

Mr. Nesbitt: Regardless of excuses by various levels of government, particularly this one, something must be done and done now. All the reliable authorities on the subject of pollution, water, air or the soil from which we obtain our basic foods, tell us that something must be done soon. Other speakers have dealt with other points. There are a great many matters one could deal with on the subject of pollution. I will limit my remarks to one or two particular aspects.

A few years ago in the city of St. Catharines there was a man who had a small business raising orchids. McKinnon Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Motors Corporation set up a plant there. Fumes from that plant destroyed the orchids. The florist instituted an action against McKinnon Industries which has the full power of the General Motors Corporation behind it. He conducted his case himself and was successful. It is a pretty formidable obstacle, to be faced with all the legal talent of the General Motors Corporation.

When this case went to the Appeal Court of Ontario, the florist won it again. He asked not