

environment, in co-operation with provincial activity, the picture seems promising. The tolerance levels of pollution and its effects on the general well-being of humans is naturally included in this activity.

I would like now to speak briefly on the various types of pollution in our environment and outline government activities in dealing with them. These activities are indirectly aimed at detecting human tolerance levels of pollution that will not seriously affect their physical and mental health and, at the same time, obtaining the type of environment to stimulate physical as well as mental health. Hon. members know that the government has been active and will continue to be active in investigating air pollution. The government is already drafting legislation for a clean air bill that Parliament will be asked to consider in the current session. My minister will again consult with provincial authorities on this very matter next week. Discussions have been and will continue to be held with the provinces on the matter of air pollution, and our technical experts are working on regulations related to the control of atmospheric pollution. The question of air pollution will be one of my minister's major concerns in his responsibilities for the environment. Much research and monitoring is being done by our Department of Agriculture, our Department of National Health and Welfare and other government agencies on soil pollution, that is, the determination of pesticide residues, and so on, in soils.

The government, as well, is doing much in the field of water pollution abatement. National effluent standards are being developed at the present time which will deal in specific terms with pollutants in the effluent of any industry. These standards will be part of the amended Fisheries Act which was passed by Parliament during the last session. Development of these strict national standards that all industry, both new and existing plants, will have to meet will result in a cleaner and better environment.

Under the provision of the Canada Water Act, and in agreement with the province in question, an area could be designated as a water quality management area. Pollution of waters in such a designated area would be punishable by a fine up to \$5,000 for each offence. Each day this pollution continued, it would be regarded as a separate offence. Under the provisions, no industry, new or old, could afford not to have pollution abatement facilities that are the most up-to-date that modern technology can provide.

The problem of noise pollution, which is also referred to in the hon. member's motion, as it affects the physical and mental health of humans as well as other species is receiving much more attention as each day passes. The federal Department of Transport has much to do with the control of noise abatement regulations with regard to commercial transportation, that is, noise abatement regulations at commercial airports, for example. Many municipalities, cities and towns in our provinces have strict regulations concerning excessive noise pollution. In addition, research is being carried out to determine the degree of noise that the human eardrum can withstand without damage.

Environmental Pollution

In the all-out fight against pollution in order to preserve and enhance the quality of our environment, we must clearly identify the various pollutants to be able to develop the expertise to deal with them effectively. I would like to refer once more to the 1970 report of the Science Council of Canada. The conclusion of that report has some sense of urgency. It reads as follows:

High priority should be given to the formation of an environmental council of Canada. It would give immediate tangible evidence that a growing public concern was being recognized in government. It would ensure an early start on assessment of environmental problems before they become a major national backache.

In conclusion, I would like to remind all hon. members of the government's awareness of and concern for the necessity of providing the best possible environment for all the men, women and children of Canada. I know that my minister believes that shaping our environment is the biggest challenge we face in the seventies. I am sure that all hon. members share his concern.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly on the interesting motion which the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) has placed before the House. I say at the outset that I endorse the idea of setting up an institute of human environmental studies. I think such a body is vitally needed in this day and age in our fight against the over-all pollution problem facing not only this nation but every nation in the world. I certainly endorse the principle of this motion.

• (4:40 p.m.)

I feel there is urgent need today for adequate research into the effects of environmental pollution on the health and well-being of the human species. Studies along the lines suggested by the motion are preventive in nature. They would be of tremendous value both in the treatment of those who suffer ill-health through avoidable environmental problems and also in the setting of standards in every field so that our citizens would not be subject to health hazards from these avoidable environmental problems.

To date, environmental problems have been caused primarily because this type of pollution has been almost totally ignored in the planning and exploitation of our resources and in the industrial development which has sprung up without adequate controls being placed upon it. Today, despite the urgency of the pollution problems in the world environment, we still find that most countries, including our own, are ignoring many of the basic pollution problems facing them.

Only yesterday the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) tabled a report dealing with the grave pollution problem of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. We find that these pollution problems have been caused because for the past 60 or 70 years pollution has been ignored by the nation, not because we have not had regulations in our laws and treaties but because the regulations have not been observed. Only yesterday we talked about Lake Erie, which comes under the boundary waters treaty of 1909, in which it is clearly set out that