

*Water Resources Programs*

used. A long and hard delaying action was carried on in order to try to save, or at least gain time for the use of phosphates. Obviously, those people who were interested in selling phosphates and who were interested in all the tremendous advertising that goes along with them do not want to give up or adapt to the new conditions. But, as I said, I think the Canadian people have spoken now and any further attempt to evade this reality is of no use.

I believe that the arguments in favour of the amendments we are proposing are very strong indeed. As I said, regardless of what other agents or nutrients might prove harmful, we know that phosphates have been proven harmful. Let us go ahead with research into this matter and if some of the proposed substitutes prove harmful in their turn, we shall have to get rid of them also. We do not know whether or not they are harmful because they have not yet been tried, but what we do know is that phosphates are harmful and they must be outlawed.

We also know that in Sweden there is a non-phosphate detergent being used. In Canada there are several non-phosphate detergents being used. Apparently they are able to do the job fairly well. I believe that people in Canada are very earnest about this matter. It is for this reason that we feel it should be made abundantly clear that the government will not just go a little way, that it will not just say it will cut down the content of phosphates in detergents in the hope that within a year or two Canadians will forget about banning phosphate detergents altogether. We should make sure that the government is not led to believe it can get by without outlawing or banning the manufacture of phosphate detergents completely or that they can permit these products to be manufactured and then make regulations giving the manufacturers an indefinite length of time to unload their products upon Canadians.

I was interested to read this morning how the Scandinavian countries, which are in so many ways in the forefront in these social issues, are joining together, all four of them including Finland, in order to put on a very broad campaign of action against pollution of the environment. I should like to quote part of an article from the *Globe and Mail* of June 2. It reads:

Public pressure for intensifying these efforts is being whipped up in programs, partly sponsored by the government, marking European Conservation Year.

With evangelical fervour, Sweden has organized a youth parliament, numerous museum exhibitions, six television programs and 10,000 adult study groups on environment problems—

Normal school activity will be suspended for the first week in September so that anyone from seven-year-olds to university students can get out and test the contamination of air and water, measure the level of noise and interview industrialists, municipal officials and citizens on what they are doing to protect or improve the environment—

—said Helge Jonsson, secretary for the conservation observance “we are now telling people how the problems can be tackled. If they have the facts then they can tell the authorities this is what we want you to do”.

I say to the government that now is the time to take the Canadian people into their confidence and make them their partners in this effort to stamp out pollution and improve our environment. If the government has any imagination, it can realize that in this whole matter of pollution, as in the matter of getting rid of phosphates in detergents, the Canadian people have proved that when the facts get to them and when the objective is clearly outlined for them they can and will act; they can and will bring pressure for change.

● (3:30 p.m.)

I feel sure the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) is the most thankful man in Ottawa today that he had the organized Canadian consumers behind him when the great pressure began to be exerted by the soap companies, the detergent manufacturers, and the phosphate-producing monopoly. I urge the government to adopt the sort of program Scandinavia is carrying out, and that it adopt our amendments knowing that with the support of the Canadian people pollution can be wiped out.

I wish to say just a few more words on another phase of this subject. Eliminating pollution, especially that caused by detergents, is a worldwide problem.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, only recently I had the opportunity, as a member of the Canadian delegation of the France-Canada Association, to attend a conference in the beautiful Loire valley. We spent about a week there in order to study our common problems, the most important of which was pollution.

Mr. Speaker, one of the Canadian delegates, the member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin), made a fine statement on air and water pollution, and on other forms of pollution in Canada. One French member submitted an