

*Proposed Committee on Pollution*

few years? When we look at statistics available to us, which we do not have time to quote in the house, we are astounded by the seriousness of the problem.

In my opinion, this notice of motion should be accepted, and I blame the government for not introducing legislation likely to settle this problem, which should not be considered any further but actually solved.

[*English*]

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, when I came to this house I had in mind one very important thing, and that was to work toward a solution of the pollution problem that affects the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Those who have travelled through that part of the country are aware of the beauty of the area and the tragedy that can befall such a beautiful place when pollution gets beyond the control of the normal agencies of the community. Although this is the situation, it is not so because the community has not done a great deal. It has done all in its power to control pollution in the area.

When I came to Ottawa I discovered that the federal government also had been doing a great deal about this problem. I am very pleased in respect of what the government at Ottawa has been doing. Many of the measures which have been taken by the government have been mentioned this afternoon such as the Canadian centre for the administration of waters in respect of which \$23 million has been spent, and the regional pollution control centres in Moncton and Calgary. The federal government has offered to pay the full cost of regional assistance in this regard. It has also recommended the establishment of a national advisory committee. All these things were suggested and discussed at the conference on pollution that was conducted by the federal and provincial governments in the fall of 1966.

This conference produced some very admirable and useful recommendations. Above all, it was suggested that a national advisory committee should be set up on the problem of pollution. It was further suggested that this committee should be composed of representatives of the federal government, the provincial government, the universities and industry. The purpose of this committee would be to establish water quality standards in Canada. We do not know what pure water is; we

[*Mr. Rondeau.*]

do not have any laid-down standards concerning what is pure water or pure air. We know we must accept some limitation in respect of purity because of the inroads of civilization. But how much? This is something we do not know. The national advisory committee was asked to identify pollution problems in respect of their effect on the economy of the country. These are very worth-while and important objectives.

There are other things the federal government has done. It has offered to provide joint studies in respect of many of the problems related to pollution. We have an example before us with regard to the Ottawa river. The government has offered to bring together the governments of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Here again, however, very little or perhaps nothing has happened because the provincial governments have not agreed to act together on this matter. This has been the situation all down the line in respect of these recommendations. Time after time the problem has been one of a jurisdictional dispute among the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

This is a field in which the committee proposed by this resolution would have value. The committee would be a political organization which would have an opportunity to handle the problem at a political level. Many inquiries have been made and a great deal of work has been done by very capable public servants of the country both at the provincial and at the federal level. But the problem is a political problem which must be decided by people in public life. The advantage of this committee would be that it could inquire into the problems, interview witnesses, and discuss the actions that should be taken by both the provincial and federal governments.

The time has almost expired and as I am most anxious to see this resolution passed today I shall sit down so that the motion may be put.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I was very interested to hear the hon. member mention the problem of divided jurisdiction. I should like to bring to the attention of the house the fact that in the townsites of Banff and Jasper, which are entirely within federal jurisdiction, no provincial or municipal government has any authority whatsoever. Yet raw sewage is being dumped into the Athabasca and Bow Rivers. This underscores the fact that something