

*Water Resources*

in its proposed bill that the provinces now have, and should continue to exercise, the main responsibility in the field of water pollution control and water resource management. The federal government supposedly will help the provinces by providing research, advice and a communications network among the provinces in respect of water matters. Apparently it will do little else. The bill promises little action by the government.

We think that water pollution matters ought to be considered within a more comprehensive framework embracing water resource management; that national standards with regard to water should apply to all parts of the country and that the agency to introduce these standards is the federal government. From my reading of the bill, I do not think the government proposes to do this.

The bill is deficient inasmuch as many waters in the country are not covered by the legislation. The bill covers only those waters which may be considered interprovincial or international in nature. It does not set uniform standards and gives us no assurance of stopping wastes being dumped into the rivers and lakes of this country. We are told that the bill is to be flexible. I suggest, instead, that we shall see laxity of enforcement in those cases where it is against the interest of an industry or province to enforce the measure.

For example, it is conceivable that the Irving interests in New Brunswick, which are not noted for being overly concerned about the public welfare, could bring pressure to bear on the government of that province or on the local municipality, and in that way not be forced to clean up the pollution which is being created. It seems that this bill will allow industry to pay for its right to pollute. This is an iniquitous proposal. If we are serious about controlling pollution, we should not merely offer incentives to industry but we should make a decision collectively after consulting provinces and municipalities. We must insist that all bodies which permit pollution to occur, including municipalities, obey the law.

Although the government says that it wants to decrease the incidence of pollution, from my reading of the bill I doubt the seriousness of the government's intention. To illustrate my point, to apprise hon. members of what is happening and to show the extent to which municipal governments are guilty of permitting pollution to occur, I refer to figures con-

tained in the Sixth Annual Review of the Economic Council of Canada entitled, "Perspective 1975".

The following cities have virtually no facilities for the treatment of sewage being dumped into rivers or the sea: St. John's is listed as having 100 per cent no treatment; Dartmouth-Halifax, 99 per cent no treatment; Saint John, 99.8 per cent no treatment; Quebec City, represented in this chamber by that great humanitarian, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand), 100 per cent no treatment; Montreal, which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) represents in part, 91.6 per cent no treatment. Then Windsor, represented in part by the progressive new Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Gray), 85 per cent no treatment; Saskatoon, represented by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang) responsible for the Wheat Board, 93 per cent no treatment; Vancouver, represented in part by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford), 59 per cent no treatment; and Victoria, British Columbia, is listed as having 98.9 per cent no treatment.

This table indicates those few cities which have primary treatment facilities. Ottawa is listed as having primary treatment facilities to the extent of 100 per cent, that is, all Ottawa sewage receives primary treatment. This treatment affects only about one-third of the waste materials being dumped into the river. Hamilton treats its primary sewage to the extent of 100 per cent. That city contains the Steel Company of Canada and Defasco. Millions of gallons of polluted water from those steel industries are poured every day into Hamilton Bay. This is the record, Mr. Speaker. One finds that municipalities are well aware of their problems and have been calling upon federal and provincial governments to take action to solve them. If municipalities have failed to take action, it is not because they have been unaware of the extent of the problem they face.

I have before me a pamphlet prepared by Mr. Eric Beecroft, chairman of the Department of Political Science, University of Western Ontario, for the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities entitled, "The Municipality's Role in Water Management". On page 7 of the pamphlet Mr. Beecroft says the following:

(b) Planning grants should be offered—by federal-provincial agreement—to encourage provinces and municipalities to make an early start in surveying their problems and preparing their