

I was encouraged to see the fact that the Bill gives the Government regulatory authority over nutrients and water conditioners. I suppose this is really a relatively minor matter, but, again, it is a step in the right direction. This is particularly important to myself and others because we have seen in some of our very pristine western lakes an element of pollution creeping in through the use of houseboats.

Houseboating has become a very popular recreational activity. On some lakes such as the Shuswap Lake system we have literally hundreds of houseboats floating around. When people are on those houseboats for a few days they have to do certain things. Often those things are not necessarily done in the proper way. I think you will understand what I am referring to, Mr. Speaker.

Not only are those things people end up doing to the environment in a direct way a problem but, more important, is what is called grey water. You are a person familiar with this concept, Mr. Speaker, being a recreationalist yourself. Grey water is the kind of thing from dishwashing and showers, when we use soap and detergents and dump that into the water. That is one problem.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, an experience I told you about some time back when I was having a chance to do some boating in the Gulf Islands. We tied up in a little cove with about 35 or 40 other boats for the evening. It was very shallow but protected from the wind conditions and other problems to boating. I got up in the morning and jumped in for a refreshing dip, only to notice an awful lot of material floating in the water that seemed to be foreign. Indeed, when I recognized exactly what it was, I wondered what on earth we were doing in this little protected cove. I cannot imagine that we have a country that would allow people literally to flush out toilets from hundreds of people, sitting in a little cove, directly out into the salt chuck. But that is what has happened. It is a bit of an aside, but in a very vivid and personal way it points out how important it is for us to have a Canadian Environmental Protection Act that hopefully will deal with these sorts of horrible situations in the future.

The Bill before us legislates governmental authority to make environmental regulations with respect to federal Departments and Crown agencies. This clarifies something that many of us have been concerned about for some time. I want to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, a letter that was sent recently by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan). It states:

The Board of Directors of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District considered the following recommendations of the Union of B.C. Municipalities with respect to the Draft Environmental Protection Act:

1. The liability of local government be more clearly and reasonably defined in line with the tone and substance of our specific concerns.
2. The Federal Government establish a mechanism whereby potential conflicts between Environment Canada and local government can be resolved in a co-operative fashion.
3. The Federal Government agrees to compensate local government for any added regulatory costs this legislation may place on it.

#### *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*

4. The Federal Government take a balanced approach to environmental concerns and make a commitment to fund infrastructure costs.

These are concerns that reflect a region in British Columbia trying to identify clearly who is responsible for what kind of activity. Often in the past when we have seen problems of environmental pollution everyone passed the buck. It was said that it was not a local concern but a provincial concern, or others said that it was not their concern but a federal concern and the federal Government said that it was not its concern but someone else's. As a result the pollution continues, environmental degradation continues, and everyone steps back and blames it on someone else's incompetency. The Bill provides us with an excellent opportunity to take federal leadership on these issues. Again, this is one of the woeful inadequacies of this Bill. It fails to do that as the request comes to us from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

There is one aspect that the Government, if it is concerned about environmental conditions and, in particular, the pollution of our waterways, ought to consider more seriously. It is the issue that was put before us by the Association of Canadian Municipalities. That organization represents the urban areas of Canada where they, in co-operation with the provincial Governments, have proposed to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) a cost-sharing program in which, for sewage treatment facilities, for example, the local taxpayers, the local Government, would assume one-third of the costs. The provincial Government would assume one-third of the costs, as would the federal Government. This would allow municipalities, both large and small, to develop the necessary sewage treatment facilities.

It is a sad situation when we still have many, many communities, both large and small, some as large as the City of Montreal, that are for all intents and purposes still depositing raw sewage into our river systems and our lakes. Yet that goes on in 1988. It is almost hard to believe. One of the reasons that a great many smaller municipalities indicate why they do it is that they do not have the tax base to perform. This is one way that the federal Government could co-operate to do that. All the cities agree. All the provinces and territories agree. There is only one hold-up, that is, our Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). We have to put a little heat on him to take action.

This legislation is encouraging because it establishes the possibility for boards of review to be created upon the petition of individuals who are dissatisfied with the regulations under this Act. If there are citizens who want to take a petition to ask that a board of review be set up to examine a particular component of his Bill, that mechanism is provided. I think that is another major step, as well as the fact that the Bill finally provides for some reasonable fines for those people who simply ignore environmental regulations. I am referring to fines of up to \$1 million a day for offenders in terms of environmental crimes under this Bill, and also prison sentences if necessary. We are finally getting gutsy and saying that the environment is important and, if one is going to conduct crimes against the environment, then an individual or a company must pay the