

recommendations. At page 307 of the report they said:

Since damage to animals, plants, and various materials has been caused by fluorides in the emissions from the ERCO plant at Port Maitland, it is essential that ERCO should install the necessary equipment and modify their operations to reduce dust emissions from the lagoons, and emissions from the curing sheds, to acceptable limits under full plant operation. The payment of even generous compensation is not a substitute for good operational control; compensation payments should be an emergency policy only.

I should point out that arbitration awards in 1965, 1966, and 1967 totalled \$271,000 concerning livestock, field crops and horticulture in this area.

A further recommendation was that:

The Sherbrooke Metallurgical Company should become acutely aware of their pollution problem and should study the advisability of increasing the height of their stacks by a factor of 2.

The third recommendation was that:

Meaningful standards should be established by government for the permissive concentrations of various pollutants in the air, relative to the effects on human health, livestock, and plants. The standards should acknowledge differences between rural, semi-urban, and urban areas.

Another recommendation is that:

Because of the high pathogenic bacteria count reported from several cisterns in the area, the use of such water for drinking purposes should be discouraged. If it is necessary to use such water for drinking, residents should be advised to clean their cisterns regularly and to use the appropriate amount of chlorine.

These are a few of the recommendations that were contained in the report with regard to the specific problem of pollution at Dunnville.

But the more basic recommendations to the government are contained on page 311 where they say:

There were many facets to this *ad hoc* study—the chief ones being the effects of the pollutants on:

(a) human beings: this facet was of critical concern. It revealed a potential human health problem and was especially significant to the medical and dental professions, the many specialists within those professions, and the Department of Health.

With regard to:

—cereal, forage, vegetable and fruit crops: The damage and the potential damage of pollutants on such crops was of the utmost economic and agricultural concern.

Then they dealt with a recommendation concerning:

—cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and bees: The rearing of livestock in a polluted area was of great individual and general agricultural concern.

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

They dealt with drinking water as follows:

—drinking water: Whether drinking water comes from deep wells, shallow wells, cisterns or streams, it is a practical and important factor—

Lastly, they say that:

Pollution is a natural and ingrained fact of life. Pollution control is yet in its infancy. We suggest that the government adopt an even greater sense of urgency in developing "anti-pollution" policies and in establishing the organization to implement them.

I bring this to the attention of the house, Mr. Speaker, because my experience as a member of the standing committee on national resources, and the testimony we heard when the estimates were before the committee recently, indicate to me that the Canadian government shows very little concern about this problem and is reluctant to exercise leadership in helping to overcome it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I believe all hon. members share the concern the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) has just expressed. It shows his good disposition and his care for the welfare of mankind, that should really concern government authorities.

But we should not forget for all that that we do not live in a unitarian country, but in a country where the distribution of jurisdictions takes place at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, and that the municipalities are provincial creatures. Therefore, the pollution problem in that particular municipality comes under provincial jurisdiction.

However, I do not mean by that that the Department of National Health and Welfare as well as the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources should ignore that serious problem, because air, like water, goes across frontiers without any passport, and is therefore a matter of national concern. The government is now trying, through research, to set up standards, to convince the provinces and to negotiate with them in order to establish throughout this country a standard policy as regards the serious problem of air and water pollution.

I do hope we will soon be able to enter into agreements with the provinces and, as a result, to establish legislation that will remove the serious dangers that have been revealed, especially in the municipality of Dunnville.