

the studies currently in progress under Senator Davies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hour appointed for consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

WATER RESOURCES

PROVISION FOR MANAGEMENT INCLUDING RESEARCH AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Greene that Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): Mr. Speaker, on the news tonight a United States Senator made the statement that we are polluting ourselves into disaster. The Canadian Labour Union indicated that lack of pollution control could be an item for decision on strike action some time this year. For years we have talked about the necessity of carrying out proper conservation procedures and methods. To my way of thinking, conservation is the practice of one generation looking after the heritage with which it has been endowed, passing on to future generations a heritage unsullied and in the same shape and form in which it was handed down. I am afraid that every one of us in Canada is guilty of breaking conservation practices. Every one of us at some time has thrown away a piece of Kleenex, a chocolate-wrapper, a gum wrapper or an empty cigarette package. By the same token, pollution is being effected by our big industries in the tailings of mines and the pollutants from vats which are being poured into our lakes and rivers.

Now we are advised that the chemicals that we thought were doing so much good for mankind contain elements which can have

Water Resources

dire effects upon ourselves and future generations. So that in fact, Mr. Speaker, we have not practised good conservation methods. In spite of all the programs of research, studies by commissions, discussion and debate in this House, we in Canada today are guilty of not doing as we should and we shall not be able to pass on to future generations—to our sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters—the heritage that was handed down to us.

Thus have fallen civilizations of the past, Mr. Speaker. Unless serious, thoughtful and considerate steps are taken, having in mind all the phases of this tremendously important question, we may soon—as some people have said—be wallowing around in our own garbage. We see this demonstrated on every hand these days, particularly in our rivers and lakes. We see the fish floating belly up; they are being washed ashore by the thousand due to the fact that life-giving ingredients have been destroyed by the chemicals we have poured into the lakes and rivers which were handed down to us in a pure state.

As I have said, there has been a tremendous amount of research carried out and a great number of articles written about the necessity of cleaning up our rivers and lakes; in fact, considering the whole question of pollution. I have been interested in this question for a great many years, Mr. Speaker, because in my own area in 1905 an engineer by the name of William H. Breithaupt walked from the source of the Grand River to its end. At that time he advocated some conservation measures, but it was not until many years later—1942, in fact—that the first conservation dam was built on the Grand River. This was the first effect of his advice given many years previously. Because of the water conservation bill that has been in force since 1952-53, two subsequent dams were built on that river. These were for flood control and to provide proper conservation methods. That conservation program has been of tremendous benefit to the whole area, and around each one of these lakes there has been a tremendous growth of summer colonies which have attracted tourists to the area. This program has been well worth the money spent on it.

• (8:10 p.m.)

Let me say something about the conservation measure that we are removing from our statute books by this bill. It was a good measure whereby municipalities, the provinces and the federal government took part. As a result of the union of these three forces, a great many conservation programs were started in