

to make their own way in the world. In this way we are not in the position of perpetuating "reliefism."

This bill has great possibilities, and for that reason I was anxious to discuss it further and associate myself with it.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES

DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, June 14, the adjourned debate on the inquiry of the honourable Senator Gershaw, calling the attention of the Senate to the need for conserving Canada's water resources.

Hon. Donald Cameron: Honourable senators, when my colleague Senator Gershaw introduced this subject some few weeks ago I hoped we might have a full debate on it. Then when my colleague from Saskatchewan continued to debate the subject I thought we were well on the way to having such a discussion. However, as the session progressed there seemed to be a feeling that we might hold this over until the fall and then continue a full-fledged debate.

I went out to my western office last week and took with me some of the notes I intended to use, because we were in the process of organizing a western regional conference on water resources. Consequently, when the Leader of the Government came to me this afternoon and said it would be helpful if I would resume the debate today I had not realized some notes I was looking for were now safely ensconced in Banff, which is a very pleasant place to be—I understand that it is 56 degrees there today instead of the 90 degrees we are experiencing here. I turned in this morning some reference material I had had from the library, and I rushed down to see if I could get it back, only to find that my colleague Senator O'Leary (Carleton) had just got it, and I would not think of trying to extract it from him on very short notice. However, I think it important we spend some time discussing this very important topic.

I want to emphasize that this is probably the largest and most costly economic problem that Canada must face in the next ten to 20 years. It is a complex problem because it

involves all levels of Government, federal, provincial and municipal. It involves constitutional aspects which are at once difficult and complicated, and will call for a great deal of co-operation and understanding between governments. It involves industry in a very large and costly way, and decisions must be made soon as to how the costs of pollution control are to be apportioned.

I am sure you are all aware that the National Council of Resources Ministers will be meeting in Montreal at the end of October and will be discussing this very problem, so a start has been made on studying the matter. It involves health and recreation on an enormous scale, and that this can be a highly charged emotional issue we have seen illustrated by the appalling lengths of distortion and misrepresentation to which certain wildlife associations, the Audubon Societies and other self-appointed groups went last winter in defeating Canada's bid for the 1972 Olympic Games to be held in Banff, on the flimsy excuse that the clearing out of a few ski runs would indefinitely damage water conservation, the prospects of the national parks, the wildlife potential of the national parks, and so on. They even went so far as to cable our representatives on the International Olympic Committee meeting in Rome. I simply cite this as an illustration of how excited and emotional people can become over this particular issue. It involves people on a massive scale, because in the age of electronics and shorter hours, leisure-time recreation will call for a massive re-organization of our whole concept of education for leisure.

The foregoing are just a few of the issues on which we will have to arrive at some major decisions in the very near future.

Above all, we should understand that we must have a national water policy, and I suggest that the Parliament of Canada should at the earliest opportunity take the necessary steps, in co-operation with the provinces, to set up a federal-provincial water resources board. Such a board would involve enabling legislation by both federal and provincial governments. It should be a board of experts representing every phase of the life of the nation—agriculture, business and industry, health and education, and government. It should be set up after the pattern of the Economic Council with the same resources of expertise and study. The National Council of Resource Ministers, to which I