

*Water Resources*

Indeed, they indicated an attempt to study the problem of pollution without bringing forth any real solution.

I also had the privilege of visiting the Inland Water Centre at Burlington with other members of the committee, and I could not help being impressed by the work that that centre is doing. It is up to us as members to translate into effective action some of the projects being developed by the centre. This we must do in legislative form; we cannot just tinker with the problem of pollution.

I have an uneasy feeling that this bill is no more than an administrative framework to deal with the jurisdictional problem that exists in the matter of pollution between the federal government and the provinces. This point worries me in view of the necessity of immediate and direct action. By that I mean a joint, co-operative effort with the provinces and municipalities to study the problem, find solutions and raise money to implement those solutions.

I have read the bill. I have read comments in periodicals in regard to the bill. I feel that I should bring to the attention of the House the comments made by the Minister of Energy and Resources Management for the province of Ontario. In an interview reported in the *Executive* magazine for the month of November, 1969, which we have all received, George MacKinnon put to that minister the effect the new water act would have on the province of Ontario. In order to save time I shall summarize some of the answers given, because I think the views of the Ontario minister responsible for pollution should be known by this House.

In this regard, I hope that when the bill goes to committee representatives of provincial departments will appear and give their views on the operation of the act and its effect on the different provinces, because this is an important aspect of the whole subject.

The bill was presented by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Lang), who I thought made a rather stiff, sober and sterile introduction of it. We are very happy, indeed fortunate, to have back in this House the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene), because he carries with him a flair for speech. He is the Abe Lincoln of the House and carries with him a vast store of ideas as well, I think, as the determination and initiative to carry those ideas into effect. I hope that when the bill reaches the commit-

tee the minister will listen, and listen hard, before making the appropriate changes.

When the Ontario minister was asked about the announcement of the introduction of this legislation by the Minister without Portfolio, he said:

I think that the idea of federal legislation dealing with water quality across the country is a good one. However, I am disappointed in the way it was presented to Ontario and the way it was presented to other provinces. I think that there has been too great an attempt to impress on the people of Canada that no one has been doing anything about the pollution of water and the treatment of waste ... and now the federal government is coming in and will solve all our problems.

Then he said that the Ontario Water Resources Commission had been in operation for 13 years and had done a very effective job in this particular area. The point was then raised about having so many different federal agencies concerning themselves with water quality, and the minister set forth 17 federal agencies involving at least nine different departments of the federal government. There was the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transport—which was involved with commercial shipping—and the Department of Public Works which was involved with harbour installations. He said the dumping of waste into our harbours was the responsibility of the federal government. The Department of Fisheries is also involved, as is the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

The minister went on to point out that it is very important that there be only one federal agency dealing with water pollution and water quality control in areas of federal jurisdiction, rather than nine departments and 17 different federal agencies. Then he said:

This is why I welcome the suggestion that the federal government is finally planning to do something about its role in combatting water pollution.

His next point is well taken:

The disappointing aspect of the federal government proposals and the way it was made and the comments in the background notes and in their press releases is that they are involved almost directly in areas of provincial jurisdiction. It is important that the federal government not worry about municipalities and not worry about establishing river basin agencies which would control the various watersheds. These are things which, as far as Ontario is concerned, the OWRC and our Conservation Authority Branch are already looking after.

He claims that federal jurisdiction involves—

—our lakes...our navigable waters...commercial shipping and our harbours have been neglected