

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

have the force of a law yet, but the minister suggested to them that by this fall the reduction of phosphates be reduced to 20 per cent of the total content of their detergents and that within two or three years phosphates be totally eliminated from the detergents used by housewives.

We have the problem of what we should do about phosphates. I think we should be careful that whatever other product we produce, it does not create the same kind of situation that phosphates have created. I defy anyone in this House or anywhere else to say that when phosphates were first introduced in detergents they had any idea of what would happen. The problem is to rid ourselves of phosphates in the detergents of this country. We must ensure that whatever kind of replacement there is—and we still have to wash our clothes and clean our dishes—it will not have an effect on our waterways, as the hon. lady said, so that in four, five or ten

years from now we do not have the same kind of situation that we now have.

I commend the hon. lady for her comments. I know what she means. I know the Canadian people are concerned. I believe that we must place the responsibility on the shoulders of the people who have the major investment in this industry, the detergent manufacturers. We say to them: This is what must happen: you must reduce the amount of phosphates; you must find a replacement. It is up to the private sector to come up with their own ideas. Perhaps the government can help through the National Research Council or other agencies, but I believe it is up to the private sector to make the first move. It is in their interest and the interest of their stockholders so that they may continue to survive in industry in this country.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

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