

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

the mainland where they could get an education which would enable them to get jobs and function within society as to other young people." I say this situation is a disgrace. It is the kind of thing which ought not to have happened. The just society is being cut back precisely in the area where it is most needed. If the reply tonight is that this is not general policy, I feel the government should change this policy affecting the children of Manitoulin Island.

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member who has just spoken that this is not departmental policy. While I appreciate his concern and the note of urgency he brought to the matter, I might add that this is something of a tempest in a teapot. The report on which he based his question and his remarks tonight were merely the result of an excessive concern on the part of the district superintendent. He was concerned that he might not have sufficient funds in his budget to carry out the lunch program and other programs of the students concerned.

My information is that the letter to which my hon. friend referred was what I might call a "Dear Parents" letter that was sent by the district superintendent to the parents in regard to cutbacks in the provision of some assistance programs in education which were anticipated because of fiscal problems that the district office faced in the coming fiscal year. As I have mentioned, I think this was a justifiable exercise of concern.

Happily, the budget has proven to be such that funds have now been reallocated—at least my information is to that effect—to the Manitoulin Island district. As a result of this there will be no need to cut back this program or other programs in the area.

POLLUTION—AIR—ESTABLISHMENT OF
NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation to bringing to the attention of the federal Health Department the gravity of air pollution that is daily tightening its vise and strangling us for lack of pure air. I do not believe that the federal government realizes there has been a 700 per cent increase over the last 15 years in respiratory diseases, and that 90 per cent of this increase is in urban areas where air pollution is most severe. Neither do I believe

that the government that is charged with the responsibility of handling air pollution is aware of medical evidence that points out that 50 per cent of all diseases in man are traceable at the present time to air pollution, among them bronchitis, coronary disease, emphysema and cancer. I do not believe the government realises, for example, that medical authorities and compensation boards recognize the relationship between air pollution and emphysema.

Most of this air pollution is caused by the combustion of oil and petroleum products. This produces a great deal of pollution, somewhere around 80 per cent of all air pollution that we have today. Last year in the city of Toronto there were 941 pounds of dust dumped per month on each square mile of the city. The state of New York limits the poisonous sulphur content of its fuels to .37 per cent. Ontario's limit is four to five per cent. As far as I can ascertain, no one knows what the federal government's limit is, if the federal government has one.

Let us not be told not to get panicky, that everything will be all right, when there are floating around in the air over the United States and Canada, 160 million tons of particles, and almost two billion tons of gases. Let us not get panicky when some scientist tells us that we have only another ten years to straighten things out or we will not be here. The public is getting awfully tired of our lame-duck approach to our problems.

What guidelines has the federal government laid down to date? Does it have any guidelines? How much research is it doing? What is the federal government doing to bring the provinces up to date on the research it is doing? How many meetings has the government had with its counterparts in the provinces, or is the government getting all its research from the provincial government at Queen's Park? These are questions that need answering.

A child born on the North American continent in 1946 has been inhaling the equivalent of nine cigarettes a day. The World Health Organization has stated that the maximum tolerable dose is .1 part per million in a 24-hour period. But Toronto and Ottawa run as high as 1.7 per million parts. We must remember that air pollution not only kills slowly but it can also kill quickly. I do not have time to put all the cases on the record but I should like to mention one. The most classic case was the smog pollution in London, England, which killed 4,000 people.