

substances would be as follows: First of all, anybody responsible for depositing materials that are detrimental to fish, such as hydrocarbons, chemicals or any other deleterious substances, must report it as prescribed in regulations made pursuant to the legislation.

Second, the offenders, those responsible for the deposits, who own the deposited products or who were carrying them must, and I quote:

counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effects.

In other words, they must try to correct the harm they have done, that is to clean up waters by removing deposited substances.

The inspectors designated by the department will have more powers in terms of directing the cleaning work. Finally, offenders will be liable to higher fines, which might be as high as \$100,000 in some cases. There will also be a change of attitude to deal with those who are likely to deposit such substances. Things are much easier whenever preventive rather than remedial action can be taken in this regard.

This statement on prevention from source of deposit leads to an area in which our legislation is obviously very complex. Depositing sources are numerous in rivers and coastal waters, but there is only one in high seas: ships.

So the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act concerning the prevention of pollution are very important. They are aimed at preventing the pollution of all elements of the environment by one polluter—ships. On the other hand, those provisions of the Fisheries Act are aimed at preventing the pollution of one element of the environment—fish—by all polluting agents.

As far as ocean dumping is concerned, the Canada Shipping Act is complemented by the Fisheries Act and the Ocean Dumping Control Act. The latter has to do with the dumping of garbage into the sea from an international point of view.

Departmental officials are working in close cooperation with officials of the Department of Transport to prevent high sea pollution hazards. For example, our two departments set up a system of public hearings on the potential hazards that could stem from the proposed oil tanker routes and the oil tanker terminal at Kitimat, British Columbia.

[English]

When we think of offshore pollution, we think of the *Torrey Canyon*, the *Argo Merchant*, the *Arrow*, all the spectacular tanker disasters. And we do well to be wary about ship-caused pollution. One spill can destroy a long coast in a matter of hours. In guarding the health of the ocean, however, we should remember that more than 80 per cent of the pollution in the ocean—oil, chemicals, garbage, all the rest—gets there directly from the land, via rivers, seaports and the air. And most of this land-based pollution comes less from spills than from built-in sources: municipalities, factories, pulp mills and the like, that pour effluent into our waters day in and day out. Our second set of amendments to the pollution control provisions of the Fisheries Act takes aim at these built-in and most dangerous sources of pollution.

Fisheries

In the application of the pollution provisions of the Fisheries Act to industry, we try to work co-operatively with provincial governments. Over many months leading up to the final preparation of this legislation, my officials consulted with their provincial counterparts. Many of the proposals in this bill are a result of those consultations, and I might say that in some cases provincial input helped us to improve this legislation. To the best of our knowledge, all provincial fisheries ministers are supportive. Several provincial ministers of environment or resources have written to me outlining some concerns over the impact of certain environmental aspects of the legislation, asking that there be some discussion of this at the meeting of the Canadian council of resource and environment ministers to be held in Saskatoon on June 1 and 2.

● (1530)

I am completely agreeable to that suggestion and have so informed the concerned ministers. I am anxious, however, that this important legislation receive reasonable and prompt consideration here in the House so it can be studied in more detail and any possible problems cleared up at committee stage. I see no problem in ensuring that provincial concerns can be fully met and considered in time for the committee's consideration of this bill, if the House so agrees to passage.

All components of the environment interact with each other, and therefore it is essential that all government agencies, federal, provincial and municipal, work together to get the job done. This sort of teamwork is particularly important in dealing with the vast quantities of sewage often containing industrial waste waters discharged daily by cities and towns into our lakes, rivers and oceans. Although the focus of this government's activities in municipal effluent in the past has been through the provision of CMHC loans and grants to speed the construction of municipal sewerage projects, we may have to be more relentless than we have been in ensuring that fish are protected from these dangers.

Our suggested amendments for prevention of industrial pollution mainly concern older industrial plants. In 1970, parliament changed the Fisheries Act to enable us to prevent pollution at new plants, those to be built, altered or expanded, but we left the government's authority over the other existing plants pretty much as it had been, even though these older plants were the major source of industrial pollution. The Fisheries Act already included the general statements prohibiting the deposit of deleterious substances. We thought that this, plus the specific changes I have mentioned, would give enough authority to clean up our rivers and lakes.

Although we have made headway in the clean-up, it has been less successful than we had hoped. Our care for fish and the environment is still not good enough. Part of the reason is the unwieldy nature of the Fisheries Act as it applies to existing plants, the prime source of noxious waste. The power we have now to regulate pollution from existing plants is of an all or nothing nature. We can prohibit the deposit of deleterious substances above specified quantities from any source.