

river in any part of Canada. Many municipalities would like to improve their disposal systems but they are frustrated by lack of money. There is another argument for a new sharing of revenues and responsibilities between the provinces and the federal government and between the provinces and local governments.

Time does not permit me to speak about the subject of detergents, and about the terrible effects which phosphates have had in many lakes in British Columbia and in other parts of Canada. Some hon. members may be interested to note that the pollution effect of effluent from a large sulphite pulp mill producing 500 tons per day may be equivalent to that of sewage from a city of two million people. Fortunately, many Canadian pulp mills are acting like good corporate citizens and are now installing equipment to fight pollution.

The problem is to achieve a sensible and safe balance, to establish tolerable pollution levels and standards in this country. We must find ways to minimize pollution while at the same time assuring a good level of industrial growth and expansion. The government is doing good work now in all parts of the country to meet the problem. Time does not permit a recitation of what is being done province by province. We have the Canada centre for inland waters, the national advisory committee on water resources research, and the continuing meetings of resource ministers, but suffice it to say that pollution control cannot be effective only at the municipal level, the provincial level or the federal level. All three levels of government must be concerned. The spirit of this resolution is an excellent one, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, the notice of motion under study proposes the creation of a 15-member committee of the house to which would be assigned the task of studying the problem of pollution.

In the few minutes I have left, I shall limit myself to a few brief remarks as we shall be given, at a later date, the opportunity to express all our views on this most important problem.

However, I am flabbergasted to see that the only solution the government can suggest is to study a problem which everyone knows about.

I have here, in my hand, the complete report on a study made by the National Pollution Conference. This report, published in

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four volumes, deals with all kinds of pollutions and proposes solutions to the problems. Now, if another house committee studies those problems, it must arrive at the same conclusions, because scientists have studied those problems for over four years.

As the government takes pleasure in advising us that it is anxious to introduce legislation, I feel that the mover of this notice of motion—even if he is filled with good intentions—should have proposed legislation capable of fighting pollution, for if we ask the committee to study the various problems of pollution during two or three years, we will then have wasted precious time.

• (5:50 p.m.)

In addition to air and water pollution, I feel that something should be said also about food pollution, the pollution of moral standards, money and politics, about which the Ralliement Crétitiste has been talking for a long time.

But with regard to the matter under consideration, namely air and water pollution, I wish to tell the house about the recommendations I found in the information which I was given by the parliamentary library. I think it is backward to waste more time studying a problem known by all industrialists, merchants, municipalities and public bodies. The time for study is past, it is time to legislate. And if I take the floor today, it is to urge the house to legislate on an important problem.

In fact, statistics show that two infants out of ten—and Canada is no exception—die from the harmful effects of air or water pollution. I have here another publication which says that water is life. One knows that man can live for a while without clothing and shelter, but he dies very quickly from lack of food or water.

If you consider in particular the problem of water pollution, you find today that most of our lakes are polluted, as well as most of our rivers and beaches. Although it is a general and urgent problem the only suggestion made in this house is to conduct studies when legislation should be passed to implement the recommendations made by the national conference on pollution.

Mr. Speaker, the measure before us today is outdated, in view of the urgency of solutions which must be found, because this problem is very serious for human, animal and plant life, indeed any life on earth. If air and water are polluted, where shall we be in a