

city in various parts of the world, normal limits have been exceeded."

Last week, the federal government suggested to us what he intends to do in that respect through the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis), who said in his speech on the shaping of our environment in the 70's and I quote:

—shaping our Canadian environment is the biggest challenge we face in the 1970's. It is a bigger challenge than unemployment. It is a bigger challenge than inflation...it is a bigger challenge than all of our financial and social problems put together.

As can be seen, in its efforts to implement its anti-pollution policy, the government is planning a frontal attack on the problem, and, not wanting to rush things or to go ahead blindly, it understands that in the face of the urgency—and that is the expression used by the minister—it must do the following and I quote:

There is a real urgency here. We have to act on the environmental front quickly and with determination. We have to move ahead of events, rather than from crisis to crisis. Our critical path, in other words, must be laid out ahead of time. We must have a plan to preserve the quality of our environment. We must preserve our wildlife and our fish and our trees. We must renew our renewable resources as quickly and as effectively as we know how.

Economic growth is essential. Social progress must also continue in the 1970's. But their spin-offs must not result in a deterioration of our surroundings. Economic growth and social progress, in other words, must be paced in relation to our environment. They must be managed in such a way as to improve the quality of life in this country.

Mr. Speaker, in its efforts to clean up air and water, the government is facing another equally serious problem, that of protecting the industries which have made Canada one of the foremost industrial powers in the world, and that power enables hundreds of thousands of Canadians to earn their living. Indeed our country has the largest pulp and paper industry and God knows to what extent that industry has contributed to the pollution of our waters.

The minister also said and I quote:

Kraft mills have installed settling ponds and built biological treatment ponds.

It seems that those facilities are so up-to-date that there is good fishing in the rivers near them and that even the tourist industry does not have to incur, as in the past, the loss of revenue not only quite considerable but essential to the economy of some areas in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal now with shipping. During the current session, we will have to deal with a bill already introduced by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), which will help check pollution, when in force. Going still further, the government will ask us to pass another bill providing for the establishment of a Department of Environment, which will be something new if I may say so, as no other country has thought of doing that so far.

I said a while ago that at the time I was sitting on NATO's scientific committee, I heard things that struck me. Moreover, I had the opportunity to talk with the

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representative of Turkey and, having read an article written by the reporter Jacques Girard on a lecture given by Dr. Gustave Prévost, a Quebec biologist, I said all NATO member countries could perhaps, in order to check such a plague, create their own departments to keep an eye on polluting agents which, all too often, know no boundary lines.

Let me read parts of an article published over a year ago and which concurs with the policy which the government intends to implement. I will therefore quote extracts from an article published in Montreal in March of this year:

States must keep an eye on polluting agents which know no boundary lines.

This is a statement by Dr. Prévost, a provincial government biologist. He further added, and I quote:

Ottawa should have full jurisdiction on the measures necessary to fight water pollution and this for reasons of efficiency: uniform standards should be adopted throughout the country so that everybody could find an advantage in not polluting the water more than his competitors.

● (4:10 p.m.)

And there should be an attempt to internationalize these standards through negotiations with the various countries and with the help of the UN: polluters ignore boundaries. Requirements for effluents should be identical everywhere.

Dr. Gustave Prévost, a biologist who has been interested in pollution for about thirty years and was at one time Director of the Quebec Biology Board took this stand at the University of Montreal Saturday afternoon during a forum organized by the junior commission of the Quebec section of the Federal Liberal party.

Dr. Prévost attacked the position that Quebec has adopted towards Ottawa, giving as an example what was taking place in the Eastern Townships, at Lake Memphremagog. Here is what he said:

The waters of this lake, which lies mostly in the United States, finally flow into the Saint-François River through the smaller Lake Magog.

For three years now, the town of Newport on the American side of Lake Memphremagog has had a treatment plan and a sewage system flowing into the lake and carrying a large quantity of phosphates from detergents. Consequently, algae are found in the lake and this process will eventually spell biological death of those waters, as has happened in Lake Erie. Such a process cannot be reversed. In the long run, biological death turns a lake into a swamp...

And many of our lakes and rivers in Quebec are in such a state. The article goes on to say:

Dr. Prévost classifies water into four categories depending on the degree of pollution.

First quality water—real drinking water—is spring water, except when it comes from certain underground pools which are already polluted.

Third quality water is contaminated by infectious hepatitis, and that is what we have in Montreal. It can be harmful. It is classified as drinking water when it does not contain colon bacilli. But the treatment it undergoes—chlorine included—does not eliminate viruses, detergent residues...A few years ago, Lachine "drinking" water was rather like a "detergent cocktail". Also in Pont-Viau...