

*Water Resources*

bill will achieve, how the various forms of government will act, what their responsibilities will be, and what are the purposes of the bill. But he left out just one thing. At page 1051 of *Hansard* he raised the question, but did not supply the answer. He asked:

Who will pay the gigantic costs involved? The answer to that is that just as everyone is responsible, so in the end everyone must pay.

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention just how bad is the record of some of the largest municipalities in Canada and how necessary it is that the federal government do more than talk, more than pass legislation such as this, more than lecture provincial and municipal governments. The federal government, which is the major tax collecting agency in this country, must help the municipalities meet their obligations in the field of sewage disposal and the treatment of the water used in our cities. At present the municipalities are unable to do this because they simply do not have the money.

As other members have pointed out, pollution is prevalent in every province and virtually every city of this country. Just four days ago there was a report from my own province that in Red Sucker Lake water pollution is a growing problem. The effects on the Manitoba fishing industry—

**Mr. Greene:** Red Sucker Lake—is that an NDP lake?

**Mr. Orlikow:** This report reflects the effects on the Manitoba fishing industry as a result of mercury being found in fish caught in that province. It has now been established that the mercury is waste from industries in the province of Saskatchewan. What can the province of Manitoba do about that situation? Very little, I should think, although my former colleague, the Premier of Manitoba, has threatened to sue the federal government for its lack of control.

Every day in the newspapers one finds reference to pollution and the problems created by it from one end of Canada to the other. I looked at some of the newspapers of the last couple of days and found from British Columbia a report that the Utica Mining and Smelting Company wants to dump 9 million gallons of waste into Rupert Inlet. With regard to Nova Scotia there is a report that the Scott Pulp Mill is polluting the water in the Pictou area; and in Preston, Ontario, a potato chip factory is dumping waste into the Grand River. In Sudbury, International Nickel Company, one of the most profitable compa-

[Mr. Orlikow.]

nies in Canada, is dumping effluent into the rivers and poison into the air. As I drive through that city I can imagine what the world will look like if and when an atomic bomb is dropped.

What are the federal and provincial governments doing about this tremendously wealthy company? Virtually nothing. Indeed, one does not need to go to Nova Scotia, Vancouver Island or northern Ontario; one needs only to walk 100 yards from this building to see the Ottawa River—one of the largest in Canada, if not in the world—becoming in effect an open sewer. It is so bad that scientists at the University of Ottawa suggest that in the very near future all forms of life in the river will die.

• (3:20 p.m.)

In the 80 miles between Ottawa and the mouth of the Ottawa River near Montreal, 14 communities, ten of them in Quebec and four in Ontario, are pouring raw sewage into the Ottawa River. Paper mills, four in Quebec and two in Ontario, are dumping an enormous amount of waste into the river every day; so much so that, as I have already said, it has been predicted that soon no life will be possible in the river. The city of Ottawa sewage disposal plant treats primarily only that sewage which Ottawa dumps into the river, the result being that only 30 per cent of the suspended solids is taken out of and removed from the sewage in the river. This means that a city with a population of 200,000 is dumping its raw sewage into the river.

On the other hand Hull, across the river in Quebec, with 57,000 people has no sewage treatment facilities at all. Only 8 per cent of 143,000 people in Quebec living along the Ottawa River treat their sewage. The paper mills on both sides of the river pour 130 million gallons of effluent into the river every day. Is it any wonder that when one steps outside this House sometimes the stench of the river is unbearable? That is the situation regarding the Ottawa River. In Montreal, a city represented in Parliament by the Prime Minister himself, 2.5 million people pour into the St. Lawrence River 500 million gallons of virtually untreated sewage every day.

The minister made a most eloquent speech; he is one of the most eloquent speakers in the chamber. But on analyzing his speech one realizes there is little meat in it and little indication that the federal government intends to remedy the problem of water pollution. From my reading of the speech it seems that the federal government is saying