

Criminal Code

legislation and made much stronger. I hope this Bill comes to a vote. If it does not, I hope this type of amendment will be moved when the water bill is before the standing committee.

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks on this bill. I, too, hope it will come to a vote this afternoon. I am constantly shocked by the news from various parts of Canada concerning the problem that is dealt with in this bill. I think action in this regard is long overdue. I refer to the fact that many communities in Canada dump raw sewage into our waterways without any treatment whatsoever. The nearest one is just across the river, the city of Hull. It offends the national capital area in that it is dumping raw sewage into the Ottawa River. It is a tragedy that cities like Hull and other communities in Canada are allowed to get away with this kind of thing. That is not the only such community; the city of Banff, in one of Canada's national parks, is still dumping raw sewage into the river. It is about time the Parliament of Canada exercised its power and made this an offence, as is suggested in the bill before us.

It is suggested that section 165A of the Criminal Code be amended to provide a fine of \$25,000 for the first offence and \$50,000 for the second offence in respect of communities, institutions or businesses that offend the provisions of the section. I believe we should be doing this kind of thing in Canada and putting the heat on communities such as the one across the river which are so backward and unwilling to bring themselves into line with modern Canadian thinking. I therefore endorse this bill and hope it will pass the House today.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I intend to be only a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, because I fully endorse this bill and should like to see it put to a vote and referred to the committee. Let me point out to hon. members that we now have all kinds of pollution measures on the statute books of Canada. The reason we have pollution from one end of Canada to the other is that the regulations and the legislation which we have passed, which are on our statute books and have been for years, have never been enforced by government departments or governments in power.

An hon. Member: What legislation?

Mr. Harding: There is all kinds of legislation including the National Harbours Act, the

National Health Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the boundary waters act. If you check the regulations you will find there is enough legislation now to clear pollution in Canada, if it was enforced. These laws are not being enforced.

As the hon. member who spoke about the Canada Water Bill pointed out, it appears to be insufficient in many of its provisions. I for one would very much like to see this bill given second reading and referred to the committee, so that members could see for themselves the need for amending legislation which would really put teeth into measures designed to cure our pollution ills in Canada. I hope that whoever follows me will allow ample time for the bill to be passed and referred to committee this afternoon.

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that every member in the House at this time is as concerned as the hon. member who moved this bill with the very serious problems of the pollution of our waters.

• (5:50 p.m.)

This bill is a very commendable effort to deal with the problem but not, it seems to me, in a way which would really be significant enough in respect of mounting an over-all attack on the problem. It deals with the problem by means of an amendment to the Criminal Code and purports to provide a fine or possibly another type of penalty upon conviction. The first question which I ask is simply: How can we possibly fine or convict the chief offenders in respect of our waterways, the municipalities which discharge their sewage without treatment into almost every navigable waterway of this nation? It is true the federal government has undertaken an attack through the agency of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation by means of a program which makes it possible for municipalities to borrow funds to instal sewage treatment plants on reasonably favourable terms, with forgiveness of a portion of the loan.

An hon. Member: They have run out of money.

Mr. Francis: The hon. member says, "They have run out of money". I am sure the hon. member has done some estimating concerning the amount of money needed to provide primary, secondary and tertiary treatment in the various plants across this country. I am sure he is satisfied that the amount of money is