

*Water Resources*

However, the important decision which the public is now demanding must be made. No matter who pays for it, the guidelines and the goal must be set. This is, again, a question of priority. However, if we can put men on the moon with our present scientific know-how, we can do anything that we have the will to do.

Without detracting in any way from this scientific achievement and with every good wish to Messrs. Conrad, Bean and Gordon for their safe return to this planet, I am sure there are, in the United States of America, many people who wonder whether a portion of the \$24 billion spent on the space program might not have been put to better use in cleaning up some of their water and other pollution problems. There are other forms of pollution, Mr. Speaker, which must continually be examined.

● (9:40 p.m.)

A progressive step in regard to the use of the latter has, of course, been taken with the recent announcement in regard to the use of DDT. I believe I can remember when DDT was first introduced. It was a great boon to the agriculture industry. However, from the very beginning we have heard warnings from wildlife people to which, in retrospect, too little attention was paid. It has taken at least ten years or longer to realize what we should have known from the beginning, namely, that the benefits from the use of any new commodity must outweigh the adverse effects.

I mentioned agriculture run-off and the problem caused by phosphate fertilizers. With all the problems existing in our agricultural sector, which we heard so much about earlier this week—and I am sympathetic for the most part toward these problems—I do not seriously recommend taking away these fertilizers. However, with tongue in cheek might I suggest doing this as a rather naive way of solving the problem of over-production and the bulging elevators on the western prairies.

If I may get back to the bill before us, it provides the mechanism and framework for a great deal of consultation and co-operation among all levels of government and is, in my opinion, a giant step forward. For the first time penalties are to be imposed in order to make sure that the job can be done. Some will say that the penalties are too high, and others that they are too low. I would hope,

Mr. Speaker, that with interest already growing on the part of the general public, we can set ourselves to the necessary task without the penalties having to be imposed.

While this act will apply primarily to major interjurisdictional waters, to international, interprovincial or boundary waters, the use of which significantly affect waters outside a particular province, I would hope that in time the provisions of this act or similar legislation could with the co-operation of the province be extended to cover all Canadian waters. We are possibly in a grey constitutional area. Nevertheless, contrary to what some believe, I think that until we change or re-write our constitution we should live with the one we have. The provinces have for many years accepted responsibility for water resource management. Most of them have appropriate legislation and have designated ministerial responsibility. Some have done an outstanding job. This bill, when enacted, will complement and assist their efforts.

When a bill such as this is introduced it must, to have any hope of success, anticipate a great deal of co-operation at all levels of government. Now is not the time to poke a finger at any particular area for what has not been done. Rather, we as Canadians should gird ourselves for the important task which lies ahead, in the interest of present and future generations. I am very proud on this occasion to represent a municipality which since 1905, for almost 65 years, has accepted full responsibility for the treatment of its domestic waste. While I admit that the initial efforts may not have been too successful, we have progressed as a progressive community should. For some time now we have had complete secondary treatment of domestic waste for our community of over 100,000 people. I should also like to record the objection of His Worship, Mayor McLennan, to the summary omission in this connection of the city of Kitchener from the latest report of the Economic Council.

Bill C-144, when enacted, will repeal another federal statute, the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act. It may be rather unusual to make reference to legislation on the way out. However, in the few minutes left at my disposal I should like to speak about the Grand River basin. This, of course, covers an important area in the heart of central Ontario which has played a significant part in the development of our Canadian industrial economy and has an important continuing role in this respect. We have the Golden Triangle consisting of the cities of Kitchener,