

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

towns, bidonvilles, slums, squatter settlements are mushrooming. In the built areas overcrowding is acute.

The release goes on to say:

Urbanization has two sides: opportunities for higher standards of living, for better education and housing, for more public health and more social satisfactions; on the negative side, however, there is encroachment on the available land, water and air, and amid multiple threats to health there is the general degradation of man's physical and social environment. The downward trend is easily recognized: overcrowding; building congestion; proliferation of slums; water shortage; inadequate waste disposal; pollution of water, land, air; noise, accidents, delinquency, crime, disease.

These are compendious words but these are all matters in respect of which legislative action is going to have to be taken at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, and I think it does no harm to draw these issues to the attention of the committee at this time.

Here, for example, are some very simple figures indicating what the increase in population will mean. For every new 1,000 people in a United States metropolitan area the following additional facilities are needed: 4.8 elementary school rooms and 3.6 high school rooms; 8.8 acres of land for schools, parks and play areas; an additional 100,000 gallons of water per day; 1.8 new policemen and 1.5 new firemen; one new hospital bed—this is something which certainly must concern the future planning of the Department of National Health and Welfare—1,000 new library books and a fraction of a jail cell, as well as more streets, more surfaces for the municipality to keep clean, more solid wastes to clear away, more sewage to treat, more storm water to cope with and so on.

One of the most interesting suggestions contained in the press release has to do with air pollution. We have heard a lot about water pollution and about the open sewers which our rivers are becoming. I now quote from the press release:

The simplest and most dramatic effect of air pollution is the increased number of deaths during periods of smog or other serious pollution. Mortality is greatest among the old and the infirm. But there is no doubt that air pollution plays a part in respiratory and other diseases.

According to the W.H.O. experts on metropolitan planning, one of the main causes of "unbalance" of the modern metropolis is without doubt the motor car.

We are all familiar with the condition brought about by motor car fumes in the city of Los Angeles. We hope it will not spread to our country, but the way to see that it does not is to plan well in advance.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Some suggestions are made with regard to steps to be taken to combat air pollution:

Satellite towns in which no pollution-producing fuels are used; green belts and wide open spaces to dilute and disperse pollution; central plants to provide heat and hot water to whole districts; less traffic flow in metropolitan areas; appropriate devices for automobile engines to minimize pollution.

In the Soviet union some attention has been given to this problem, and it is very interesting to note this comment in the press release:

In the Soviet union, standards in this matter have been adopted for new urban development. All industrial undertakings are divided into five classes according to the harmful substances discharged. For the "most harmful" class, factories must be separated from residential areas by a protective zone of greenery ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 metres depending on local weather conditions, etc. For the class at the other end of the scale, the figures are 50 to 150 metres.

There is this very interesting comment, and it is a statement which has been applied and accepted with regard to water:

Air should be regarded as a world resource to be conserved and utilized forever. The laissez faire policy of treating the sky as an open sewer is doomed to lead to disaster.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to take the time to go into this press release any further. I am advised by the officials of the world health organization that a statement will be made available in due course and will be in our parliamentary library.

My experience has been that the period of gestation which leads to reforms and measures to combat problems of this magnitude is very lengthy. It may be 10, 15 or 20 years, but the gathering storm which is going to break upon the world in the form of the increase in population is something which must be dealt with at the legislative level as well as at the planning level. As I say, I assume and I hope this is a matter which the officials of the minister's department do take into consideration.

I make this simple suggestion now, and it is not one I expect to be implemented at this or even the next session. The minister should give consideration to discussing the prospect of establishing a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons to deal with the problems of overcrowding, particularly as they relate to the varied and multiple matters over which she presides as minister of this department. A committee of this kind would, I assume, not conclude its deliberations in any great hurry. I would think that a period of years, perhaps two or three, might well elapse before the committee could report. I am sure the publicity achieved as a result of making an inquiry through a