

*Water Resources*

of pollution. Although it does not propose many answers for dealing with it, the answers are fairly obvious.

The first action we must take is immediate and effective steps to stop pollution now. In this regard we must give leadership. Let us not wait for Peru to tell us what to do; let us tell them what to do. Let us tell the great American republic to the south, which is getting a lot of criticism these days in every other regard, that they are failing in their international obligations.

What are we doing to meet our obligations? I think the republic to the south of us, which has the money, is willing to buy fresh water if we have a sensible plan for supplying it. I suggest in this way we will be able to finance the very measures that I am suggesting.

A lot of research has been done on which, as yet, no action has been taken. However, we need a great deal more research. Why not give our young men an opportunity to study water control and proper methods of conservation? In order to do this we need more money devoted to research in this country. We require additional scholarships at Canadian universities. If we have no diplomas in water control, then let us beg our universities to open up schools to teach our young people about water and water conservation.

The problem of pollution is so great that I suggest we require hundreds of trained people to tackle it. Having trained our young men, let us give them something to do. We have the water resources and the need to preserve them; we have young men of ability and brains, with sufficient drive to take on this responsibility. What they are expecting from us is leadership. These young men want to cut their hair and go back to work. They do not want to loaf around as they think we do here. But they are fed up with the lack of leadership being shown by the government, and so am I. I could not go down to Yorkville and tell these young men that they are wrong and that we are right, because in this respect I think we are wrong.

It is not the responsibility of the provinces to show leadership in this field, but it is their responsibility to co-operate with the federal government in devising a national plan of water conservation which is acceptable to the provinces. Certainly, we cannot shift the financial responsibilities to the provinces and municipalities, which are already carrying a back breaking burden of debt. Although we have not given leadership in fields like hous-

[Mr. Bigg.]

ing, intercity transportation, and things like that, let us take responsibility here. The field is wide open.

As I have said, there are no constitutional hurdles in fighting pollution. The main hurdle is raising the money. If we first have a sensible plan to deal with pollution, then I suggest the very water resources that we wish to save and conserve will foot the bill for the job that we have to do. Water is probably the most important national resource that we have next to men; and we have the manpower. Let us put our young people to work helping to clean up our streams and stop further pollution. If this is done the government will find it will receive more co-operation than it dreamt was possible.

This is not a partisan matter but something in which every member of the House should be vitally interested. It is also something that every department of government should concern itself with. It has been said by several members who preceded me that the Department of Fisheries and Forestry has a sufficiently wide interest in the subject to police anti-pollution laws without in any way running into constitutional difficulties. To claim that such difficulties would exist is to drag in a red herring; and red herrings are a specialty of the fisheries department. So, let hon. members stop that kind of talk.

Unemployment in Canada is rising, 6 per cent of the national labour force being now unemployed. Let us put to work about 3 per cent of the labour force to deal with water conservation. This would be a direct answer to the unemployment problem and is the kind of thing that should be done. This would be a national investment, though it would take courage to follow such a course.

I do not pretend to be some sort of Jeremiah standing alone in the wilderness. I am reinforced in my views by some words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and I think they should be on the record. He said:

• (2:30 p.m.)

We all know how easy it is to dissipate our natural heritage by a short sighted attitude towards industrial and commercial development. In recent years many members of the public, certain industries, and all levels of government have become more conscious of the dangers of resource mismanagement and pollution.

So, it is known by the Prime Minister, and I presume by every member of his cabinet, what pollution will eventually do. This should be known by every member of this House. If it is not hon. members need do nothing more