

planning; the best possible management plus considerable give and take on both sides.

Economic growth in the old-fashioned, quantitative sense is an illusion. It is shortsighted. It is narrowly conceived. It recognizes certain private costs but ignores others. It passes hidden charges onto others. And these hidden charges can later turn up in the form of barren soil, smoke laden skies and waters which are repulsive to us all. A fuller accounting of costs, and especially of costs and benefits over the long run, inevitably turns up a different balance sheet. Blighted landscapes and unhappy hours are negative factors which must be taken into account. More public costs must become private costs. The cost of pollution abatement must be met, increasingly, by the private sector. After all, private enterprise has proved that it can deal efficiently with many things. Why not see to it that our industrialists, and our scientists, deal with many of our environmental problems as well?

Let me refer to what I regard as a classic case. Let me refer to the drilling for oil in our beautiful Strait of Georgia in B.C. If the oil companies were allowed to go ahead I doubt if the price of petroleum products would come down in Vancouver. Of course, the local fishery would be threatened, pleasure boating would be less pleasant and waterfront properties would not be as valuable as they used to be. These minuses, I am convinced, would outstrip the value of the new jobs on west coast drilling rigs by a factor of more than ten to one. Natural apprehension, the public's concern about the destruction of the local environment, and the threat to our tourist industry would be too great. Economists refer to many of these considerations as "intangibles". But they have their own inherent value in our human scheme of things. No politician worth his salt can ignore them. No local ecologist or no global environmentalist would, either.

Recently, the Science Council of Canada referred to the Strait of Georgia. It suggested that an Ottawa based economist take a dispassionate look at the pros and cons of drilling for oil there. Reading between the lines, one gets the impression that the Science Council thinks that such an investigation might even come down on the side of the oil companies. I doubt very much whether it would, Mr. Speaker. I doubt it very much.

Anyone with any idea of the quality of life could not help being skeptical about the idea of oil derricks in the Strait of Georgia. Anyone with a feel for "intangibles" would guess that a careful cost-benefit analysis would turn thumbs down on the establishment of an oil industry in the midst of this recreational mecca. There isn't another area in Canada quite like it. I doubt if there is really another area anywhere in the world which has a greater potential for human enjoyment and the wise use of leisure time. This is why I am convinced that it will make a magnificent national marine park, perhaps the first in Canada; undoubtedly, the biggest and the best in the world! Ecologically speaking, drilling for oil in Georgia Strait is sacrilege. Environmentally speaking, it does not make sense. Scientifically speaking, it shows a callous disregard for human values. I am surprised that the Science Council would stub its toe on that one!

Government Organization Act, 1970

I must not imply, Mr. Speaker, that offshore drilling is all bad. Canada has a long shoreline. It has the longest shoreline in the world. We also have a vast Continental Shelf. It reaches 400 miles out into the sea off Newfoundland. It underlies all of Hudson's Bay and most of our straits and seas in the High Arctic. So we have a choice. We have a choice of location from an environmental point of view. So, let us choose our offshore drilling sites with care. Let us make sure that we do not set up oil drilling platforms where they are bound to be offensive, where they hurt real estate values and where they will be detrimental from a recreational point of view.

Of course, our new Department of the Environment will have to keep a close eye on the oil industry. It will have to keep a close eye on Canada's natural gas industry. It will have to watch coal mining, uranium mining and copper mining. It will have to make sure that natural leaching processes do not distribute too many copper ions around for them, like many exceptional concentrations of trace metals, are poisonous to fish and other forms of wildlife. It is true that man needs more energy and cleaner energy. He needs better construction materials and he needs chemical products which fertilize the land. But he can pay too high a price. He can churn out too many substances which are anti-life. He can produce too much that is harmful, that is toxic, that is suffocating, that blunts our senses, that shortens our lives.

I have singled out the oil industry as a starter. But I could have mentioned the pulp and paper industry instead. Using Canada's magnificent forest cover, it generates more employment than all of Canada's mining industries combined. But our pulp and paper industry is a polluter, too. It passes some of its costs on to others. Half or close to half of all the wastes being dumped into Canadian waters by industry originate in our pulp and paper mills—50 per cent or close to 50 per cent in bulk, in tonnage terms. This is why the pulp and paper industry has been singled out for special treatment under the Fisheries Act. This is why it is facing new regulations, new regulations under the Fisheries Act which are nation-wide in their effect.

• (4:20 p.m.)

This is why we are joining with the provinces in our efforts to clean up our pulp and paper mills before it is too late. Our approach to industry may interest you, Mr. Speaker. First, we comb the literature; then we talk to the consulting engineering companies, and ours are the best in this business. Then, we sit down with the industry itself. We learn all we can about the best plants, how they have been built and how they operate. The best is the test. From the best, we develop a set of standards which we know can be met and practiced. These new standards are embedded in our regulations. Coupled with the deadlines, we put the laggards in industry on notice. We put the polluters in industry on notice from one end of the country to the other.