

CONTROL OF PHOSPHATES

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. J.J. Greene, made the following statement in the House of Commons on February 6:

The question of the control of phosphate nutrients as an essential step toward the cleaning of polluted waters is one in which this House and the public generally have recently demonstrated great concern.

The report of the Pollution Reference Board on the lower Great Lakes to the International Joint Commission has recently highlighted the most critical aspects of the problem with respect to Lakes Erie and Ontario.

In view of the undoubted seriousness of the problem, my Department has been active in looking further into potential solutions to the problem of eutrophication caused in some considerable part by the use of phosphates in Canada.

Shortly after the report of the Reference Board to the IJC was published, I held discussions with my United States counterpart, Secretary Hickel, and informed him of our point of view on the need for joint action. In addition, senior officials from my Department specifically discussed the phosphate problem on the Great Lakes with senior officials of the Department of the Interior of the United States. Other officials from governments in Canada and the United States were sent to Sweden to investigate the phosphate-control program in that country and still others were dispatched to discuss research and development of phosphate alternatives with a major United States detergent producer. Furthermore, I held discussions with industry representatives to hear their point of view and to inform them of the gravity with which we viewed the problem, and to determine whether action and self-discipline on their part on a voluntary basis could be the successful approach to the problem.

JOINT SOLUTION NEEDED

With respect to the Great Lakes, it clearly appeared that there was little point in Canada's acting alone, since most of the phosphates entering those waters emanated from the United States. United States action, as well as Canadian, was therefore essential if any real solution to the question was to be achieved, and if Canadian action to ban or control was to be anything more than an empty gesture.

I am, therefore, most pleased to report to the House that on February 4, at hearings in Rochester, the U.S. Federal Water Pollution Control Administration took a fresh look at its position and is now calling for the reduction of phosphates in detergents as recommended in the report to the IJC. The U.S. Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has asserted its willingness to control phosphates within minimum practicable levels immediately and to look

to the complete replacement of phosphates as soon as possible.

My Department supports the recommendations to the IJC concerning phosphate control and looks forward to the Commission's report to the Governments of Canada and the United States.

I have instructed my Department to work in close conjunction with the United States Federal Water Pollution Control Administration to attempt to achieve a co-ordinated plan of control and an imminent complete replacement of phosphates. I shall be consulting with my counterpart ministers in the provinces to attempt to achieve a plan of control and ultimate replacement of phosphates that is mutually acceptable and that will thus have the support of any provincial action required under our constitution.

I have further instructed my departmental officials to advise the IJC, at its public hearing today in Brockville, of our intention to act on this matter.

NATIVE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Canadian Indians are to be hired and trained as correctional, guidance and assistant parole officers under a program run jointly by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of the Solicitor General.

Two pilot courses involving 40 Indians will start soon in the staff-training colleges of the Canadian Penitentiary Service in Kingston, Ontario, and New Westminster, British Columbia.

The program is the result of a survey, entitled *Indians and the Law*, done by the Canadian Corrections Association in 1967 under the chairmanship of Dr. Gilbert C. Monture.

The Department of the Solicitor General will conduct and administer the courses. The Department of Indian Affairs will meet the costs under a new Treasury Board authority that provides for on-the-job training of Indians and Eskimos in federal departments.

A recruitment campaign is being started to select potential trainees for this program in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Applicants must be Indian male adults, at least 5'8" tall and in good physical condition. The minimum educational requirement is Grade 10, but applicants with Grade 12 will be given preference.

The purpose of the program is to reduce Indian unemployment and help native Canadians towards a brighter future.

There were 141 instructors in schools for the blind in the year 1969-70, with an enrolment of 728 students. There were 5 pupils in the pre-school program. A total of 578 instructors were employed in schools for the deaf, which had a total enrolment of 3,394 students, with 383 pre-school pupils.