

*Water Resources*

cans, 26,000 million bottles and jars, 3,000 million tons of waste rock and mill tailings and 50 trillion gallons of hot water along with a variety of other waste products. Other industrialized nations make their comparable contributions of debris and toxic materials.

I give the undertaking tonight that I will try to obtain copies of this report for members of all parties in the House who wish to have a copy, because this matter goes far beyond party lines. We talk about the deaths in Viet Nam. Today in North America more people are dying from emphysema, caused by air pollution and cigarette smoking, than are killed in Viet Nam each year. Some may say that these scientists are nothing but alarmists. Those who say that have not taken into account the fact that there are dangerous levels of nuclear radiation which, depending upon the type of radioactive material in the radiation will be in the earth's biosphere for the next 1,000 years.

The report I have quoted was tabled in the United States. Representatives of all parties were there and they will know of it. Fifteen of the world's leading scientists, including Canadian and Soviet scientists, produced absolute evidence that nuclear radiation causes carcinogenesis in man, genetic defects and birth defects. These have been among some of the early, clearly identifiable byproducts of the nuclear age. Through the statistics being made available from all over the world we now know that nuclear pollution, let alone everything else, is a terrible threat.

The clean water act, in its own modest way, does not claim to solve these problems. It does not say it will end pollution in Canada. Solving this problem clearly calls for co-operation by municipalities and provincial governments. We cannot be successful unless there is this kind of co-operation. But the clean water act and counterpart measures adopted by other nations of the world—Britain, Soviet Russia and the Scandinavian countries—can do more than just confer national benefits upon the citizens of these countries. Measures such as this are for all mankind. These are measures which may serve to preserve a healthy biosphere for generations to come.

Water from Canada which flows to the sea burdened with pollution and harmful waste containing everything from DDT to human effluent, industrial pollutants and nuclear pollutants, contribute to the death of the earth just as surely as clean water from Canada gives hope for a new and better earth in the

[Mr. Perrault.]

future. Pollution control measures in Ontario and British Columbia confer a benefit on those provinces. But beyond that a benefit is conferred upon mankind. A clean water program and a clear air program will cost money, but it is a price we must all pay.

A short time ago 26,000 questionnaires were sent to every home in my constituency. The replies overwhelmingly called for tough pollution control measures. The people are fed up with raw sewage being dumped into the sea, the belching smoke of oil refineries in their back yards and the ominous chemical wastes from industries and homes which in one instance at least killed all plant growth in an area of Burnaby. The growth of algae is killing beautiful lakes in British Columbia.

I think we all realize that as elected members we must establish the basic laws and guidelines under which we want to operate in Canada. We must have the courage to bring in more bills like the clean water bill, as imperfect as they may be.

● (8:40 p.m.)

The tidings we must bear to the people and the industries of Canada are that pollution control will cost money but the end benefits will confer untold blessings on all of us.

Some industries in this country are acting as good corporate citizens; other industries belch forth noxious fumes and dump industrial pollutants into the water, oblivious of the harm they are doing. They are bad corporate citizens and have to be made to clean up or close down. We cannot afford to destroy the environment. Our health is in danger; upper respiratory infections are on the increase from coast to coast. The photochemical reactions which take place are a deadlier killer than war. Incinerators, heating and process furnaces, automobiles, buses and trucks—they are not directly relevant to the bill but I refer to them because they were first touched upon by the preceding speaker—all constitute problems with which we have to cope.

In the short run, some products that we buy may cost more, and more public funds may be required. In saying this, I subscribe to the growing view that the cost of dumping industrial waste in the water should be placed on the people who are responsible for it. Is this unfair? A prominent leader in public life in North America said:

But this is a proper cost because there are a lot of alternatives to dumping waste in the water ... These alternatives range right up to relocating the plant.