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INFORMATION

Ontario New Democrats **NDP** Nouveau Parti Démocratique

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September 4, 1979

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

 Dissent to Recommendation of Resources Development Committee on Reed Paper Ltd. tabled by NDP members.

We are tabling the attached dissent to the recommendations of the Resources Development Committee on the Reed Paper Ltd. control order.

The Committee will be finalizing its report on the Reed hearings and recommendations on Wednesday, September 5, 1979.

We regret that the Minister has not set a final deadline for the long-delayed clean-up of the English-Wabigoon River and the air pollution in the Dryden area.

Marion Bryden, MPP Beaches-Woodbine
Bud Wildman, MPP Algoma
Bob Mackenzie, MPP Hamilton East
Ted Bounsall, MPP Windsor-Sandwich

The NDP members believe that responsibility for setting deadlines and requirements in control orders should remain the responsibility of the Minister. They believe that there should be a great deal more opportunity for public input in the development of control orders and emissions standards. But they do not accept the Minister's view that a standing committee of the Legislature with its many other responsibilities is the proper vehicle for that public input. The Committee does not have expert staff, such as accountants and engineers, to evaluate the conflicting claims of the Ministry and the company. Nor does it have the time to deal with the multitude of control orders issued or to sit for lengthy periods in the communities affected. Its involvement simply slows down the process and is not a substitute for full involvement by local residents.

The NDP members suggested to the Committee that a more suitable vehicle for public input and independent evaluation of the conflicting claims would be a panel of the Environmental Assessment Board sitting in the community concerned, with a December 31, 1980 deadline on its work.

Such a panel could also consider the economic and social milieu in which the industry operates and make recommendations for policies to ensure the continuation of a viable northern community such as Dryden.

The NDP members presented this proposal in detail to the Committee in the form of a motion which was defeated by the Conservative and Liberal members of the Committee. A copy of the motion is appended.

We believe that the Resources Development Committee has a role to play in discussing government policy on the setting of control orders and other measures for pollution control. The Committee has made extensive recommendations on these topics in its Interim Report tabled June 21, 1979. It is now up to the government to act on these recommendations if it is serious about cleaning up the continuing pollution from the pulp and paper industry and solving other major environmental problems such as acid rain and sulphur dioxide emissions from INCO.