

formed in Belgium, France, West Germany, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and other European countries. They combined in 1956 to establish the European Federation for the Protection of Water. In Germany there exists a nonpartisan association of Federal and State legislators who are concerned with the problems of water conservation, particularly pollution. In France, a Federation of Fishermen's Associations and Amateur Anglers Defense Union played an important part in the passage of the new French water pollution control law.⁴ While there have always been professional associations in Europe concerned with the problems of water pollution control, new organizations continue to be formed, such as the Swedish Association for Water Hygiene, an organization representing bacteriologists, jurists, chemists, physicians, and other technicians concerned with water pollution. A Yugoslav Association for Water Protection was formed in 1963. Its membership includes distinguished experts in the field of water economy, hydrologists, biologists, economists, and lawyers. One of its purposes is to keep the public aware of the need and advantage of pollution control.

It is, therefore, abundantly clear that in Europe, as in the United States, sportsmen, conservationists and professionals are bringing pressure upon parliaments and legislatures to pass stronger water pollution control laws.

The Swiss people, by referendum, in 1953, voted by an 80-percent majority that water protection ought to be the concern of the central government.⁵

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY IN EUROPE

Some countries have already passed stronger water pollution control laws and others are giving serious thought to such legislation. The Netherlands does not have a strong comprehensive water pollution control law at this time. Laws passed during the past 70 years do give the national government pollution control powers in the major rivers and ship canals.

A comprehensive water code was passed in Poland which not only controls discharges, but also indirect pollution by air and soil contamination.

During the early 1950's after some considerable study, the Belgium Parliament passed a comprehensive water pollution control law. This law is already considered inadequate and serious consideration is being given to new and stronger legislation in this field.

In West Germany, the Federal Water Act of 1960 provides, for the first time, a uniform basis for water pollution control throughout West Germany. The act provides for a permit system and imposes implementation of the act upon the West German States of Laender. Three of the West German States have refused to implement the new law and in October 1962, won a Federal court case which declared many of the provisions of the new act null and void and unconstitutional because it infringed upon the lawmaking rights of the West German States.^{6, 7}

⁴ Litwin, *op. cit.*, p. 70.

⁵ Litwin, *op. cit.*, p. 69.

⁶ Litwin, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

⁷ C. J. Jackson, "Trade Effluent Disposal and Water Supplies in Western Germany," *Federation of British Industries*, 1962, p. 9.