

Environment Studies

Ignored By Government

HALIFAX (CP) — Dr. J. S. Nelson, president of the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, says the Canadian government has not called for a single environment study at the outset of any major development.

Dr. Nelson suggests biologists should be involved in studies for major developments just like engineers.

He told a conference of the Canadian committee on **fresh**-water fisheries research that his organization proposes to become the environmental conscience for Canada.

"We're upset that anyone can claim to be an ecologist and hire themselves out. We see all sorts of incompetent studies done."

Harve Neu, an engineer-scientist with the Bedford Institute near here, said the environment is becoming another business . . . "a political football."

He told a symposium of about . . . across Can-

ada that "we have to take a closer look at the environment before we continue exploitation."

Mr. Neu said control of nature has been exerted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by the growing number of hydroelectric power dams.

By holding back the natural springtime flow of river water, he said, the mixture of fresh and salt water in the gulf was altered. Nutrients were reduced, the water temperature, marine life and climate changed.

Spring run-off in the gulf was vital but that the runoff now was largely regulated for power purposes.

He called on the scientists to find ways of determining the total cost to the environment of massive engineering projects.

"I place a lot of these responsibilities on your doorstep . . . to advise government agencies what shall be done to cause the least damage."

