

Mr. Speaker:

I would like to table herewith the report of the International Joint Commission (I.J.C.) on pollution of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the Saint Lawrence River. This report is also being released in Washington today by the Government of the United States.

The final report represents the culmination of six years of work following upon a request in October 1964 as supplemented by a further request in 1969 to the I.J.C. by the two governments for an inquiry into the extent, causes and locations of pollution in these waters.

The breadth and scope of this report shatters all precedents. It deals with the most extensive water pollution study undertaken anywhere to date. The report provides guidelines that can be an inspiration to the peoples of Canada and the United States in the critical period ahead to deal with the Great Lakes pollution problem. It provides a basis for the concrete action that is now already under way with the assistance of the interim reports that the Commission has made to the two governments over the period of the entire study.

In this report the I.J.C. states that:

- 1) The waters are being seriously polluted on both sides of the boundary to the detriment of both countries to an extent that is causing injury to health and property.
- 2) The polluted waters are lake-wide in extent; the principal causes are wastes discharged to the boundary waters and their tributaries by municipalities and industries.
- 3) Urgent remedial measures are required; these are set out in specific recommendations for action by the two governments and all responsible jurisdictions in both countries. Programmes to be agreed upon to meet the water quality objectives are set out in the report. These are aimed to bring about immediate reduction of the phosphorus content in detergents, the prompt implementation of vigorous programmes to treat municipal and industrial waste, and the reduction of phosphorus inputs into these waters. The report also contains programmes to deal with problems caused by oil spills, mercury, radioactive substances and other hazardous material entering these waters.