

VI. ACID RAIN

The participants believed that very little is being done at the present time to solve the acid rain problem. Some felt that the problem was under study as a "token gesture" and because of "pressure from environmentalists." The majority further believed that it was likely that the problem would eventually be solved but that the high cost to industries of any solution to acid rain is responsible for the extreme delays in taking action.

Most participants felt the cost should be shouldered by both the Canadian and U.S. governments, individual consumers of pollutants, and corporations which have contributed to the problem.

The consensus among the groups was that Canada is "not doing enough" to solve the acid rain problem and we should "clean-up our own house" before we criticize others. Less than half of the participants felt the U.S. alone could be blamed for the acid rain problem; most felt that Canada had contributed as much to the problem as the U.S.

The participants felt that a strong relationship between the Prime Minister and the President will matter very little in solving the acid rain problem. While it "helps if they like each other," being able to influence other people, (e.g. industry leaders) was considered by some of the participants to be more important in solving this particular issue. The participants felt the two leaders are concerned enough about acid rain but suspect that other issues, (e.g. economy, unemployment), are more of a priority for Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan at the present time.