

of acid rain. That has been seen traditionally as an environmental question, which is important enough in itself. Our Government believes it is also an economic and political question, because lakes and livelihoods and industries - like our lumber and pulpwood industries - are being destroyed. The problem is serious in Canada and in parts of the U.S., and it can only be solved by concerted joint action between our two countries. Our new Government in Canada is moving now - on our side of the border - to put in place a major abatement program involving all levels of Canadian government and the Canadian private sector.

Los Angelenos are more than sensitive to the problems of atmospheric pollution, including acid rain and acid fog. I am told that there are lakes in California, in the High Sierra Mountains, which are presently being impacted by acid rain. I venture to hope, therefore, that there will be a certain amount of understanding from California of our desire in Canada to see steps taken as quickly as possible to stop ongoing damage to our country.

Not long ago, our two countries faced a similar problem with pollution in the Great lakes, and we worked together to improve significantly the quality of water in the Great Lakes systems. We hope to make similar progress on acid rain.

Other differences will arise between our countries - whether over protectionism, over gas, or electricity, or the unitary tax. In my first official meeting with George Shultz, I told him Canada would adopt the formula proposed by former President Gerald Ford, who said "we can disagree without being disagreeable".

For Canada's part, that is easier now than ever - not because the issues are simpler, which they demonstrably are not, but because Canada is able to deal with the U.S. more like an equal. You are a little bigger than us in population, and we are a little bigger than you in geography, but Canadians are now beginning to reflect a more mature confidence in our society. That self confidence has always been an elemental strength of the U.S., and because you were so sure of yourselves, and we shared so many similarities, it was difficult for Canadians to stand on our own terms.

It is easier now - easier because les Grands Ballets Canadiennes, the National Ballet of Canada, the Stratford Festival and the Symphony Orchestras of Montreal and Toronto, Margaret Atwood and Anne Murray and the Academy Award winning National Film Board and tous les artistes internationales du Quebec, and countless other