

vigorous enforcement of existing laws as they require limitations of emissions from new, substantially modified, and existing facilities in a way which is responsive to the problems of transboundary air pollution".

Problem with
broad impli-
cations

As experts, you all know how strong the case against acid rain really is. Vitally important as this issue is on its own terms, however, the acid rain problem has even wider implications. These interface with many of the major environmental questions of our time. Acid rain is related to the toxics dilemma generally; the airborne-transportation of contaminants and particulates and the resulting deleterious fallout pose a real threat to the continued safety of our water supplies. Soil depletion and future agricultural production; forestry and resource management; conservation and the need to find the best means of power generation: all these factors and more can be considered at least a part of the acid rain equation.

How we solve this equation will have tremendous implications for us socially, politically, and especially, economically, because our contemporary management of the environment will largely determine what resources will be available to us in the future. Above all, our management of the acid rain question is a test of how we see ourselves in the world.

I am encouraged by the fact that our two nations have faced equally serious environmental challenges in the past, and have triumphed. At the turn of the century, there was a very real fear that we would exhaust the wilderness, that our resources were being used up at too fast a rate, and that certain species of animal, such as the buffalo, faced extinction. It was about this time that the policy of setting aside large national parks for the benefit of future generations was begun by farsighted men in both countries.

In your nation, the first comprehensive policy of conservation was adopted by Theodore Roosevelt, after he had made the American people acutely conscious of a very pressing environmental problem. His words still hold today:

"To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed".

Roosevelt then pushed through a national parks and land use program which is both his monument and the heritage of all humanity.

Today, we are confronted by an environmental crisis no less serious than the one faced at the turn of the century. In some ways, it is even graver, because the threats we face, like acid rain, are often nebulous or even invisible, and do not yield themselves to simple solutions.
