

dependent nation of North America. "We respect the separate Canadian identity," he declared, and "we respect the right of the Canadian people to pursue, in their own way, their own destiny." He remembered, too, the "significant" fact that Mr. Trudeau had been the first foreign head of state to visit him in Washington after his inauguration.

The same evening, the President and his entourage were the guests of honour at a state dinner at Government House. Among the more than 100 guests were members of the Cabinet and their wives. In a tribute to Mr. Nixon, the Governor General said, "...You have given leadership to a long-sighted transformation of America's foreign relations and role in the world. The full measure of your initiative in

the military, political and economic fields is just beginning to be recognized, together with their implications for the peace and well-being of people everywhere.

"In the case of Canada and the United States, I have no doubt that they will help us in defining anew the many areas where our desires and our policies converge.

"At a time when both Canada and the U.S. are adjusting to a world in transition, it is a happy omen to have you and Mrs. Nixon in our midst, an omen of enduring and advantageous new relationships to come."

In response to a toast during dinner, President  
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## GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

In a ceremony in the Confederation Room of the West Block of the Parliament Buildings, the Agreement was signed on behalf of the United States by President Richard M. Nixon and the Secretary of State, William Rogers, and on behalf of Canada by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp.

To fulfil commitments under the Agreement, Canada and the province of Ontario agreed last August to carry out by the end of 1975 a \$250-million accelerated program to construct municipal sewage treatment facilities in the Lower Lakes area.

On the United States side, it is expected that about \$2 billion will be spent for municipal sewage treatment facilities during the next five years in the Great Lakes basin.

The programs which the two countries commit themselves to carry out include:

- Completion or near-completion by 1975 in all municipalities of effective waste treatment facilities, including the removal of phosphorus.
- Reduction of tonnage loadings of phosphorus to certain levels in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.
- Effective control of industrial waste discharges.
- Maintenance of a joint contingency plan to deal with spills of oil or other hazardous polluting substances.
- Strengthening of regulations to control discharges of sewage, garbage and other waste from vessels.
- Studies aimed at the development of strengthened regulations to reduce the risk of accidental spills by improving navigation systems, improving ship design and construction and requiring higher standards of operation and manning of vessels.
- Strengthening of regulations aimed at reducing accidental discharges of oil and other hazardous polluting substances from on-shore facilities, including oil refineries and other chemical industry complexes.
- Studies aimed at reducing pollution from dredging operations.

In addition, the International Joint Commission is

being asked to undertake two major studies:

- A study of water quality in Lake Huron and Lake Superior, with recommendations on measures needed to protect the purity of the water in these lakes.
- A study of water pollution from land drainage, forestry and agricultural sources, with recommendations for programs and measures to reduce pollution from these sources.

The Agreement requires the two countries to take measures to ensure that water quality is preserved where that quality has not yet been damaged by pollution. This requirement is especially important for Lake Superior and Lake Huron, where the existing quality of the water in most places is well above the conditions prescribed by the "objectives".

The Agreement also provides that each country will retain the same rights and obligations it enjoys under the Boundary Waters Treaty and under international law. This means that, while pollution discharges from the more populated United States side may necessarily be higher for some time, the Agreement does not accord to the United States any greater "right" than to Canada to discharge a larger amount of pollution into the water.

The International Joint Commission is given a new and stronger role in scrutinizing the implementation of each country's programs and monitoring the response of the lakes. The Agreement specifically empowers the Commission to make its findings public at its own discretion and requests the Commission to make recommendations to the governments, as required, for improvements in their abatement programs, as well as in the water quality objectives for the lakes. To assist in carrying out these new duties, the Commission will set up a Great Lakes board that will include federal, provincial and state representatives. The Commission is also authorized to establish a new regional office in the Great Lakes area.

The Agreement is a dynamic instrument providing for continuous review. It is designed readily to incorporate more effective programs and higher objectives to take into account new scientific findings or developments in technology as these emerge.