

*Water Resources*

are grave and urgent. Equally, the solutions we must produce are momentous in their scope. It is impossible to make an exact estimate of what it will cost us to pay for our past sins and establish a sound program for the future, but estimates range to billions of dollars.

Nor can we complete the job overnight. The damage it took us decades to do, will, even with our best efforts, take us years to undo. The 1970's in Canada will have to be dedicated to the eradication of pollution and the rational and comprehensive management of our resources.

Who will pay the gigantic costs involved? The answer to that is that just as everyone is responsible, so in the end everyone must pay.

[*English*]

Municipalities which deposit human and industrial waste in our waters must do their part. Here very special responsibilities for the clean-up and treatment of domestic and industrial sewage fall upon a level of government that is at the bottom of the fiscal totem pole and often finds itself in difficult financial straits. Through the provinces, which are responsible for the municipalities under our constitution, they will be consulted and must do their part. They must join the national effort, must plan for the future of theirs and our water resources. Yet we realize that the municipalities face a grave financial situation. Consequently, we are taking steps through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to make a large and expanding fund available from which municipalities may borrow under favourable circumstances in order to finance the construction of sewage treatment facilities. The present shortage of loan funds, which some have pointed to as a result of the present financial difficulties and the determination of the government to fight the war on inflation, is temporary and will be rectified.

And what of the individual citizen? What does he contribute to this program and to his challenge of the times? First, we must remember that it is he who makes up the totality of our body politic, and so the quality of our environment must depend ultimately upon him. Each of us has exploited our environment for too long and the cost has become evident. Dying lakes and rivers surround us and the smell of pollution is everywhere. The cost of phosphate-filled detergents is algae choked lakes. The cost of the sixty-page coloured advertising supplement in our daily paper is sulphite liquor and wood fibres in once clean rivers. The eventual cost of our

way of life may be its extinction unless the individual citizen is willing to pay the price of cleaning up our environment. It is ultimately a matter of the attitude of the private citizen that will control the whole success of this venture. Public opinion must remain strong on this issue. We must all demand that the job be done and the price be paid if we are to win the struggle.

Having spoken of the responsibility of municipalities and of the individual himself in this struggle, may I now concern myself with industry, so often a whipping boy when we talk of questions of pollution. How often in recent months have I seen the ire of citizens directed at polluters in everything from letters to the editors, to the learned articles and academic publications, and inevitably industry is the villain, industry is the sinner and industry must pay, then all our troubles will be over. How easy and happy the solution would be. Yes, industry must pay its burden of the costs. We must recall that industry in fact is all of us as employers, employees and consumers of industrial products. It is all of us as recipients of the vast sums and taxes paid by industry.

Millions of Canadians work in industry and hundreds of thousands, at least, are owners of industry within the framework of the capitalistic system. Each and every one of us consume the products of industry. To indict industry as the sole culprit, is little more than indicting ourselves, as industry does little more or little less than public opinion demands. More than this, industry has surely not behaved much differently than have we, as individual citizens.

Yes, industry is bigger and will have to be cleaner, and accordingly its clean-up costs will be greater than that of individuals. This is not to defend industry but rather to point out that the corporate citizen has done little different but is only bigger than the individual citizen and must bear the cost in proportion.

Yes, industry must in fact indicate its willingness to co-operate in this great effort to improve the quality of our environment. The private enterprise system, with its inherent freedom, giving the maximum choice to the individual, rewarding initiative and industry—that very freedom and incentive which the capitalistic system has given—has provided a real reward in the highest standard of living that any system known to man up to the time of this system has given.