

Concern over Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Since the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States in 1972, the two countries have been developing and implementing programs and other measures to meet the specific aims in the Agreement. A major program has been the construction of adequate municipal sewage-treatment facilities throughout the Great Lakes area in both countries. In 1971, an estimated 80 per cent of the population in the Canadian section of the Great Lakes Basin, and an estimated 5 per cent in the U.S. portion (excluding Chicago), was served by adequate treatment facilities. By the end of 1975, this percentage will be 60 per cent in the U.S. By the end of 1976, it will increase to 9 per cent in Canada.

The Canadian Government learned with great concern that an amendment had been proposed in the U.S. Senate to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act aimed at altering the formula for distributing \$9 billion of the funds, earmarked for construction of municipal sewage-treatment plants in the United States. It is the Canadian understanding that the effect of this amendment would be to divert significant water clean-up funds from the Great Lakes States to other areas, which could further delay U.S. construction programs under the Agreement, and thus affect the early achievement of the water-quality objectives for the Great Lakes Program agreed to in 1972.

The Canadian Government has made these concerns known to the U.S. authorities through a letter from its Embassy in Washington to the U.S. State Department. As requested in the letter, the State Department has transmitted the text to the Congress in the hope that Canadian concerns will be taken into consideration when the amendment is examined in the Congress.

Extended car warranties — information for owners

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced this month that a special unit had been set up in his Department's Consumer Ser-

vices Branch to deal with problems relating to automobiles.

The owners will be given information about special "goodwill" adjustments provided by some automobile manufacturers and distributors.

Goodwill adjustments or "extended warranties", as they are sometimes referred to, have been allowed to car owners only on an individual basis.

During the past two months, the Minister has asked senior officials of all companies manufacturing or distributing cars in Canada to provide documents describing such policies.

"I have been assured of their desire to co-operate," the Minister said, "and I count on their co-operation to help alleviate the concern of car owners who feel that present secret adjustment programs are unfair."

Information regarding extended car warranties had been brought to the attention of the Department by L.P. Edmunston, president of the Automobile Protection Association, an independent consumer group in Montreal.

Children design Christmas stamps

Postmaster-General Bryce Mackasey has announced the issue on October 22 of six Christmas stamps designed by school children under the age of 13. The designs were chosen from more than 80,000 entries in a project sponsored by the Canada Post Office, based on the theme "what Christmas means to me".

"With so many excellent designs, it was a difficult task to choose only six," said Mr. Mackasey.



Rental housing — proposals sought

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is ready to invest up to \$200 million in the construction of moderately-priced rental accommodation.

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson said that the Corporation would seek proposals from builders and developers for the construction and operation of rental developments. Preference will be given to projects in municipalities where rental vacancy rates are particularly low.

The program is expected to provide accommodation for more than 8,000 Canadian families.

Selected proposals will be financed by loans under the National Housing Act, which enables CMHC to provide financing up to 95 per cent of costs at an 8 per cent rate of interest.

Rents for the housing produced will be set between CMHC and the owner of a project and will be based on the size of the units, the extent of services provided and the advantageous financing terms offered.

The intent is for the rentals to be below market rates or, in the case of high cost areas, for rents to be at market rates for comparable new housing.

Kissinger visit

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jurisdiction zone for fisheries and resources and also whether or not the issue of tankers in the Puget Sound was discussed and Head Harbour Passage on the other coast?"

A. The Secretary: "Yes, both of these problems were discussed at great length, and our views on the subject of the law of the sea, as I understand our views, are very similar. We would prefer that the legislation, that the regime for the economic zones, be established by international treaty and not by unilateral legislation. We appreciate the fact that Canada up to now has resisted the temptation for unilateral legislation. We, of course, have our own domestic pressures in favour of unilateral legislation.

"With respect to the tankers in the Puget Sound, that was discussed, but no final conclusion was reached."

Q. "And, Mr. Secretary, Head Harbour Passage?"