

For 300 years, governments have devoted themselves to the increase of state wealth: through expansion of trade, through growth of the industrial base, through welfare programs to aid and retrain the victims of society. We have conducted these worthy activities in the belief that this planet is possessed of an inexhaustible supply of fresh air and clean water, a permanent balance of flora and fauna -- an optimism born of the knowledge that nature is a force so strong it cannot be upset permanently.

We now know that this is not so. We now know that spring is not automatic. We now know that the responsibility is ours to restore and maintain the health of the biosphere. Without sunshine, without health, growth and wealth are meaningless. Every human being realizes this, but perhaps it is for Canada -- the land of space, of youth, of spring -- to take the lead, to depart from the insane course on which mankind has embarked and to return to the point where we and our children can say without hesitation "God's in his heaven - all's right with the world!"

S/C