

to write about his ancestors visiting small streams, rivers and lakes filled with pure sparkling water. Today we are told that those same rivers in most of the states of the Union are nothing more than open sewers. We have read with dismay that, even in the case of our Great Lakes, Lake Erie in particular has hundreds of miles of dead water, that is, water where neither fish nor any other life can be preserved. People have had to move back from their beaches because of the stench and smell in the summertime. The shortage of water was brought particularly to the attention of the American people last year, in the City of New York and other localities. These people have destroyed their own water resources and are looking to Canada for help. Canada will have to make some provision; she will be compelled to work in some way with the United States regarding the supply of pure water in the future.

In Canada the conditions are not as bad. We have about 70 per cent of the fresh water of the North American continent. It is also estimated that we have about one-third of the world's supply of fresh water. But it is time for us now—indeed it is long past—to begin to preserve our water supply. I can remember that when I was a boy in my own province we had sparkling rivers, but they too, as my good friend Senator Burchill can tell you, are becoming polluted and very little if anything is being done to prevent it.

Honourable senators, I should like to add on this point that there is no body in Canada more capable of studying a matter of this kind than the Canadian Senate. Instead of appointing expensive committees and commissions, as has been done time and time again, I would like to see work of this kind given to our Canadian Senate. I am sure the people would appreciate it, and the Senate committees could do a very fine job.

Mention was made yesterday by both the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, of Canada in world affairs. In the Throne Speech we read:

As a member of the United Nations, as a member of the Commonwealth of which our beloved Queen is the head, and as a partner in the North Atlantic Alliance, Canada will strive to make the greatest possible contribution to improve international relations and assure peace with justice to all peoples.

Those are very fine words. Our support of the United Nations, its principles and goals, has never been in question. Our peacekeeping operations have taken our soldiers, as was also mentioned yesterday, to troubled spots all over the world. They have a splendid record, one which is well known and of which we can be justly proud.

The attitude of political parties and the Canadian citizenry in general with regard to the field of foreign affairs has a peculiar characteristic. It is that political parties have enjoyed agreement on basic external policy, whether holding office or not, while, on the other hand, the Canadian citizenry have almost consistently given broad national agreement to these policies. This has been true under all Canadian governments, as it should be.

We are proud of our peacekeeping activities in Gaza, Korea, the Congo and elsewhere. We can be just as proud of our other United Nations activities and efforts, such as the endeavours towards eradication of disease, the elimination of poverty and hunger, the wiping out of illiteracy, assistance to trade and economic advancement to developing nations, and many others. In these activities of course we recognize that our collective prosperity and security can be guaranteed only within a framework of co-operative interdependence among nations. A policy of isolation is impossible today. Speaking in general, Canada has never been an isolationist country, and I am sure she never will be. Therefore, Canada finds herself holding membership in most of the world's great political, military and economic organizations where her presence is of benefit to the world in general and to herself in particular. I refer of course to the United Nations, NATO, the Commonwealth, United States and Canada joint defence program, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and many others.

I did intend to say something on Rhodesia but I will leave that to another time. This is not one of those problems where black is black and white is white. There is more to it than that. You cannot say one side is absolutely right and the other wrong. We all regret that Premier Ian Smith of Rhodesia is not more tractable. I believe and hope it is a problem that can be solved without too much trouble. It is one of the major problems in the world today. I do not think that getting tough is the solution. There must be some