

lecting charges for the treatment of wastes delivered to these facilities.

- (5) The Federal Government would enter into agreement with any province to establish intergovernmental committees or agencies to advise on water research, planning, management, and development, and to help co-ordinate and implement water policies and programs.
- (6) With the provinces, the Federal Government would establish joint commissions, boards or other agencies to conduct water-management programs. Such programs would be concerned with the supply, quality, distribution and other aspects of water – a comprehensive approach to multipurpose water – resource management.

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

A partial text of Mr. Lang's statement follows:

"Canada is faced with a serious situation in the deterioration in the value to Canadian society of our abundant supply of fresh water. The Federal Government is today issuing a statement of policy for water management in Canada, a policy which we intend to implement by legislation to be introduced when Parliament begins its new session in October.

"By issuing this policy statement on the proposed Canada Water Act we are initiating a co-operative attack with the provinces against pollution and a joint program for comprehensive water-resource development based upon the most modern management methods available.

"No other element of our natural environment seems to be in worse shape today than our once fresh waters. A large part of the problem, curiously enough, is that we have so much water – at least two billion acre-feet are annually renewed in the natural cycle of rainfall and runoff. Because everyone, including our neighbors to the south, is so conscious of our water abundance, conservation faces an uphill struggle. The common reaction seems to be: 'Why worry about the quantity or quality of resources in use when there is so much more waiting to be developed?' Some have seriously suggested that, rather than attack excesses in water use and pollution, we should simply import more water from the north to flush out or replace existing supplies.

"This philosophy of unlimited exploitation may have been appropriate to an earlier era when Canadians were preoccupied with developing a new land, the successive wars and the soul-destroying depression. But the waterways which carried the early explorers, fur traders and soldiers, are now being despoiled almost beyond recognition. The mighty lakes and rivers of Canada are now a sorry record of pollution. The St. Croix, the Ottawa, Lake Erie, the Red, the Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan, the Okanagan and the Fraser each has its own sad story. Truly a great heritage, and yet we cannot seem to spoil them fast enough. As a recent magazine article asks: 'The rivers have made this country, what have we made of the rivers?'...

#### WAR ON POLLUTION

"The Canadian people are rightfully impatient with continued inaction and evasive 'buck-passing'. The Federal Government will introduce legislation into Parliament this fall to implement a policy of co-operative and comprehensive management of our water resources, with particular attention to pollution problems. The proposed act will be a major new piece of legislation; but the inspiration behind it is not new. The Federal Government has been increasingly concerned with modern water-management needs in recent years, intensifying its efforts further after the 'Pollution and Our Environment' conference of 1966. Certainly we could have acted in greater haste on some water problems. But there is little to gain from rushing from one emergency to the next. We have been searching for means which are effective and equitable in the long run, qualities which too many past proposals have been unable to demonstrate....

#### PROGRAMS UNLIMITED

"The proposed legislation would provide for comprehensive water-resources programs. These programs would be broad in scope, would focus on the appropriate basin or region, would consider both confined to limited jurisdictions and limited purposes. The proposed water-quality management process has four elements: first, the designation of a particular body of water as a water-quality management area; second, the establishment of a water-quality management agency; third, the development of a water-quality management plan for describing the water-quality objectives, the waste treatment required, the appropriate effluent discharge fee and waste-treatment charges; and fourth, the implementation of that plan.

"The record of the past has been less than satisfactory. True, many desirable features have been incorporated in plans for development. But equally true has been the over-emphasis on structural solutions – from facilities for waste treatments to dams for the control of floods. We have allocated investments in terms of appropriate programs of financial assistance through outdated legislation. We have too frequently focused our planning on one or two uses, rather than on the total range of purposes to which water can be put. One small water development, planned independently, may set in motion inappropriate patterns of development for long periods of time. Management opportunities are wide and far-ranging, but as each irreversible development occurs, the choice becomes narrowed, and better opportunities are lost. The proposed legislation would provide the mechanism for multi-purpose water-resource planning and comprehensive water management....

#### MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

"One of the major innovative features of the proposed act will be the provision for Water-Quality