

Canada appears to have an inexhaustible supply or even an overabundance of this all important gift of nature. But we need only look at our great neighbour to the south to see how quickly a water deficiency can be created through extravagance, waste and pollution.

And now the United States is casting covetous eyes on Canada's water supply as the easiest and cheapest way of making up the water shortage it faces because of mismanagement and inadequate planning in the use of its own waters. Powerful forces in the United States have embarked upon a campaign aimed at bamboozling Canada out of its water resources and are issuing misleading and erroneous statements to the effect that Canada has a surplus of water in its northern territories, because the full potential of these waters is not being used at the present time.

Remember, I am reading from this engineer's letter—these are not my words.

Would-be plunderers blatantly refer to water as a continental resource and dream up grandiose schemes such as the so-called North American Water and Power Alliance, commonly known as NAWAPA. Both inside and outside Canada much credence is given to the fact that water is a self-renewing resource and that the world stock is constant. The truth of the matter is that through man's own abuses and neglect the world supply of clean, sweet water is dwindling at an alarming pace.

False analogies are drawn between the export of water and the export of other resources. With the sole exception of water, science has produced or can produce substitutes. For water there is no substitute; but for dirty water there is a cure.

The following comments are taken from an article appearing in the May 1966 issue of *The Atlantic* under the title "Death of the Sweet Waters", the author being Donald E. Carr, a veteran research chemist in the United States.

"...NAWAPA is by far the biggest public works project ever considered. However, it contains internal defects that should oblige us to reflect on our whole continental philosophy of water. NAWAPA would double our irrigation water supply, but do we want more

irrigated land? It would create a 'Northwest Passage', but what good is that? It would give Mexico the equivalent of an Aswan Dam, but are we in the business of growing Mexican cotton? It would make the Great Lakes deeper, but is that a good way to solve the sickening pollution of Lake Erie and Lake Michigan?

In a sense, NAWAPA is an agricultural pork barrel for the farmers of three countries. It is based on the erroneous premise that we have a basic water shortage in most of North America. In fact, we have a shortage only of clean water.

Honourable senators will mark this part, because many engineers concerned with water conservation are beginning to challenge the concept of big dams, because big dams fill up. To continue:

Building a big dam and a reservoir for flushing purposes is one way to try to clean up a river. But it is a very inefficient and very expensive way to cope with pollution. It would not solve, for example, one of the most critical poison-water dilemmas—how to remove trace quantities of dangerous organic chemical wastes. There is another defect in this method of getting more clean water; storage dams represent essentially an irreversible action committed upon a river. The river is tied in chains. If you decide later you must treat the river water instead of diluting it, you have already built your monument of concrete and must pay the interest on it. Acreage has been inundated.

In New York Governor Rockefeller's \$1.7 billion program for abatement of water pollution, if coupled with reduction of losses and installation of full water metering (New York City loses twice as much water in its transmission system—400 million gallons a day—as the city of Boston uses), would go further to relieve the local famine than such airily conceived notions as diverting water from Canada.

What must somehow be pounded into the heads of the people who govern us is that as far as the eye can see into the future, our big problem in water is pollution. The problem of water shortages is a problem of treating dirty water, whether