

land rights and related regulatory and property-taxation systems. Municipalities and other forms of local government continue to have major responsibility for domestic water-supply and -distribution systems. At the federal level, the Water Resources Council, composed of representatives of the major functional federal agencies concerned, operates under directives to encourage the conservation, development and use of the water and related land-resources on a comprehensive basis, involving the Federal Government, states, localities, private individuals, business enterprises and all others concerned. The Federal Government also has a mandate to study regional river-basin plans and programs in relation to the requirements of larger regions.

Competition for water is now creating tensions between American cities and regions:

- Montana and Idaho are threatening to sue the State of Washington if it seeds Pacific Ocean clouds, contending that such action would steal water from the winds that might have carried it inland.
- Communities in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts are fighting Boston over a plan to transport 72 million gallons of water a day from the Connecticut River. Opponents fear that the diversion will lower the Connecticut River to dangerous levels and cause environmental damage.
- A legal battle is brewing over rights to the Colorado River, with claims by various groups exceeding the amount of water available. Indian tribes alone are claiming five million of the 14 million acre-feet that flow down the channel each year.
- Environmentalists are opposing plans to transport coal by slurry pipelines and projects to produce oil from Rocky Mountain shale because these endeavours require vast amounts of water in one of the nation's most arid regions.

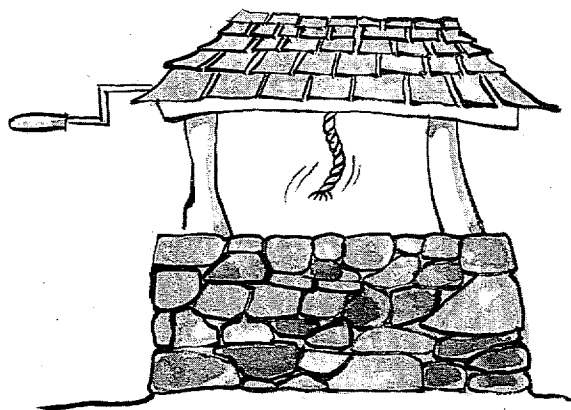
In many parts of the United States, water-shortages and water-restraints are already affecting economic activity. Garry B. Cobb, Acting Director of the U.S. Water Resources Council, has stated: "We're coming to an era of a conservation ethic in water-management that could change historic settlement and consumptive patterns". Charles Warren, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, has suggested that water-shortages could change present population-growth patterns. Mobile Americans may have their style cramped as it becomes more important

to settle families or industries only where water is abundantly available on a regular basis.

Solutions

There are, of course, solutions to water problems - desalination, recycling, effective water re-use, water-conditioning and water-treatment, improved water-management, elaborate pipeline and transportation methods and even the towing of icebergs. These solutions may not be good enough. Knowing the population growth and the upper limit of the water-supply in the U.S., some Americans have suggested, and will continue to suggest, that water from Canada will be the ultimate solution. Some years ago, Ralph M. Parsons and Company of Los Angeles proposed the redirecting of 100 million acre-feet of water (which flows north to the Arctic) from Northwestern Canada to dryer parts of Canada, the United States and Mexico. Another scheme included the Great Replenishment and Northern Development, which would divert "unused" water-flow from James Bay into the Great Lakes for use by Canada and the United States. A third scheme was to re-route Peace River water in Alberta across the Prairies and into the United States. A fourth scheme was to redirect water from the Laird and Mackenzie Rivers southward via the Rocky Mountain trench to a large storage-area in the Centennial Valley of Southwestern Montana and from there to drier areas of the Western United States.

In all these schemes not only was there little consideration given to environmental



concerns but there was an underlying assumption that water was plentiful all year round and the only problem was one of transporting it. As water-supplies become more critical, pressure could well increase for Canada to provide the U.S. with water. Canada must act now to explain to all Americans that it cannot be expected to redirect billions of gallons of water southward. By presenting the facts in a clear, concise and