

they could be seriously depleted or polluted. Now, however, we are approaching the point of no return. This is the time when we must take active and costly measures if we are to preserve these resources and restore what we have contaminated without crippling the adjacent industrial areas which support millions of people living in the Great Lakes region of our two countries.

Ontario Problems

Let me cite one or two examples of the pollution measures which we, in Canada, are now exploring. The Province of Ontario, which has a population of only seven million people, covers the northern side of a long stretch of the St. Lawrence River, Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and Superior and the Niagara River. It is along much of this system that our major industrial-urban areas have developed — as it has on the other side of the border in the United States. Recognizing the serious threat of pollution in the early 1950s, the Ontario Government undertook an investigation of the problem, and it estimated in 1955 that it would cost \$2.4 billion, spent over a period of 20 years, to install in Ontario adequate water and sewage facilities for anti-pollution purposes. Anti-pollution measures are now being implemented in both Ontario and in the riparian states on the United States side to help restore and recover the natural resources we have so seriously and inadvertently damaged or destroyed. To take another example, the cost of constructing sewage systems in Ontario between 1957 and 1967 reached \$182 million because they were not done gradually through the years as the province developed. A recent study of pollution in the Great Lakes cost \$7 million. That was the cost of the study alone; implementation of remedial programmes will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

It will be clear from these examples that anti-pollution programmes are very expensive and require years of extensive study, planning and construction. The cost of preventive action before pollution occurs is small in comparison. Two of the most expensive problems encountered in developed areas can be entirely avoided in developing areas by planning controls in advance. These problems are the elimination of existing pollution and the upgrading of existing productive facilities which do not satisfactorily control pollution. Here I might mention that among the proposals which have been made is one which would involve the drainage of Lake Erie, the serious condition of which I have already described. You may well imagine how badly this beautiful lake, which is 241 miles long and 57 miles wide, has been polluted if consideration is now being given to its virtual destruction. How much better and less wasteful it would have been if problems had been recognized and overcome before such a stage was reached.

Among the problems are pollution from industrial waste, sewage and chemicals, which for a century have been dumped in ever-increasing quantities into the lakes and rivers. These wastes have destroyed the purity of the water, damaged the fishing industry, and ruined extensive recreation areas and wild-life