

political interference, according to Mr. Robinson, was destroying seventy years of cooperation on pollution between the two countries. Canada and the US had, in August 1980, during the previous US administration, signed a memorandum of intent to negotiate a clean air agreement (*Globe and Mail*, October 6). Canada has been officially critical of the Reagan administration's approach to the problem, which has been to insist that not enough is known about the sulphur emissions to justify the expense of taking action.

At a symposium on acid rain held in Pittsburg the same week, Canadian officials again complained that the US administration's position was threatening the bilateral agreement. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Anne Gorsuch had, during the conference (October 6), repeated the EPA's claim that too little is known about acid rain for US Congress to legislate any remedies, and that "several rigorous studies cast doubts on the theories" that coal-burning industries are the major cause of acid rain (*The Citizen*, October 7; *Globe and Mail*, October 8).

Shortly afterwards, a senior EPA official, Kathleen Bennett, at an Ottawa environmental conference October 14, responded to Mr. Robinson's accusations. She called them "an enormous exaggeration . . . unfounded . . . and counterproductive."

In an interview with the *Globe and Mail* appearing on October 15, Mrs. Bennett warned that the deep disagreements between Canada and the US regarding the crucial aspects of acid rain may cause the Canadian and US scientists who have been working together on the problem since 1980 to submit a split report (*Globe and Mail*, October 15).

Some progress in the dispute was reported in late October when it was announced that during the visit of Secretary of State George Shultz to Ottawa, he and External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen had agreed to exchange memoranda on acid rain before the end of the year (*The Citizen*, October 26).

Also in late October, a four-day international conference on acid rain was held in Burlington, Vermont. Both Canadian and US politicians and officials made representations at the meetings. One view presented by US supporters of acid rain action was that their ability to persuade their colleagues "hinges on being able to point to nonsense action by Canadian friends." When Ontario Hydro decided in July to cancel plans to limit emissions through the installation of "scrubbers" in one coal-burning station, lobbyists for US utilities and coal companies had "papered the Congress" with the newspaper reports within a few hours, one US official said. Ontario Hydro's decision had been perceived as "Canada backing down" (*Globe and Mail*, October 28). Environment Minister John Roberts gave the closing speech to the conference, calling again for immediate action based on the more than 3,000 studies into every aspect of the issue.

On November 2, it was reported that a US study ordered by the EPA in 1980, during the previous administration, had concluded that "the new findings strongly suggest that pollution from coal-burning utilities, primarily in the Mid-west, is killing fish, destroying lakes, damaging structures, disrupting eco-systems and potentially threatening human health — both in this country and in Canada." The 1,200 page study was written by fifty-four independent

scientists and was intended to be a "scientifically unpeachable assessment" of the acid rain problem (*Globe and Mail*, November 2). The report, which supported Canada's position, was quickly called "incorrect and irresponsible" and was accused of not making a conclusive link between US power plants and acid rain, by Kathleen Bennett in Washington. In Ottawa, Environment Minister John Roberts said that he was not surprised by the report, pleased. "I think the scientific facts concerning acid rain are now substantially sure, and I think the case we are making is soundly based," he said (*Globe and Mail*, November 2).

Canada's case was also given a "significant boost" when it was announced November 1 that the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal US agency that supplies electricity to a seven-state area, had decided to reduce sulphur emissions from its coal-fired generating stations rather than wait for new scientific studies. Evidence that industrial pollution is seriously damaging the environment is so overwhelming that no delays could be further justified, the agency said, splitting openly with the US administration on the issue (*The Citizen*, November 2).

In the House of Commons, Stan Darling (PC, Parry Sound-Muskoka) twice in November (8 and 18) asked unanimous consent to a motion to reconstitute the House of Commons Special Subcommittee on Acid Rain. On November 18, Environment Minister Roberts said that he would certainly welcome a decision to reestablish the subcommittee to continue the work it had done in the past.

Transborder Satellite Agreement

An "umbrella" agreement between Telesat Canada and a US domestic satellite company for a Canada-fixed satellite transborder service was signed October 6. The agreement was the first under an intergovernmental agreement approved August 24 which allowed voice and data information transmission by satellite across the border. Among other things, the agreement between Telesat, the designated Canadian entity, and the American Satellite Company of Rockville, Md., spelled out an overall objective that each of the two companies will carry an equivalent of 50 percent of the transborder traffic generated under the agreement (Telesat Canada press release October 6).

NASA Honors Canadians

Seven Canadians were presented with awards November 3 from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for their role in the development of Canadarm, the mechanical arm of the US space shuttle. Of the seven recipients — the first non-Americans to be honored — four were from the National Research Council and three were from Spar Aerospace Ltd. of Toronto. They received public service medals at ceremonies conducted in Washington by NASA Administrator James Beggs (*The Citizen*, November 2).

Launching of Canadian Satellite

Telesat Canada's Anik C, "the world's most powerful domestic communications satellite," was put into orbit November 11 by the US space shuttle Columbia. Canada's first Anik C was one of two satellites launched flawlessly on the fifth flight of the shuttle.

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