

this unique blend of elements, rather than the effect on this or that specific animal, fish or plant, that would represent the full measure of ecological damage entailed in the flooding of the Valley.

It follows that a small amount of additional hydro power can scarcely have as long-term significance to man as a decision to forgo economically attractive activities for the sake of the natural heritage of generations to come. The Federal Power Commission will wish to bear in mind Principle 4 of the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment which was strongly endorsed by the Governments of Canada and the United States. This principle states "man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat which are now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation, including wildlife loss, therefore should receive importance in planning for economic development".

It is therefore fair to ask if decision-makers in 1974 have the right to destroy for all time this unique portion of our environmental heritage. The Government of Canada asserts as a principle of primary concern in the assessment of development projects the requirement to recognize the unique value of natural ecosystems and to seek a reasonable balance in an appropriate time scale between such values and those that flow from man's activities. This matter of principle goes well beyond the Skagit Valley and, of course, transcends the international boundary.

The Government of Canada is heartened that its concerns are