

awe from time to time by thousands of city dwellers. Rather, I am referring to the capacity of our natural environment to renew itself while sustaining man's activities. For many years, in both our countries, we thought that that capacity was effectively unlimited. It is only in recent times, historically speaking, that we have come to understand that we can all too readily overload the assimilative capacity of the natural environment. We have also come to understand how little we know about the complex series of factors which must be kept in balance in order to ensure that the global ecosystem, of which each of us is a part, continues to function as it should.

Any observer of a world map is aware that Canada has a great deal of environment to manage and to protect. Nonetheless, despite our enormous territory, the concentration of our population and industry has given us many difficulties akin to those experiences in your own country. I can say unequivocally that we are facing these head on, and that we have made a number of decisions designed to ensure that the protection and management of our natural environment is conducted as effectively as possible. I do not have the time here to list these in detail, but I would cite one decision which is representative of others - the decision in 1971 to create a comprehensive Department of the Environment. This Department is very broad in scope. It places within one organizational structure the responsibility that the Federal Government has in such varied tasks as managing renewable resources in both the terrestrial and maritime environments, the development of regulations to abate or control pollution, the monitoring of air and water quality throughout our country, the development of what is perhaps the world's most advanced land use data bank, the assessment of the effects on the environment of major projects of many kinds, weather forecasting, and substantial research activities in support of all of these functions.

Canada is and will continue to remain an environmentally responsible neighbour. We see the United States in the same light and take pride in the serious efforts that we both have been making to manage in a responsible and creative manner those environmental issues which have transboundary implications. Let me stress that we in Canada have welcomed the opportunity to work with the United States in creating a very dynamic and beneficial bilateral environmental relationship. The United States is an acknowledged leader in this area, and together, I think we have taken actions that can serve as models for other nations.

Nonetheless, there will be problems from time to time. The proposed oil refinery at Eastport, Maine is one example that I might mention. This project of the Pittston Company could involve the passage of very large crude carriers through the Canadian waters of Head Harbour Passage to Eastport. We have examined the effect of an oil spill in these constricted waters and it is our view that the fisheries and wildlife resources of the area would have been severely affected, in addition to the appreciable aesthetic degradation which would have resulted along all the contiguous shoreline. The total annual landed value of fisheries products in the area is five million dollars, involving a labour force of roughly 1600 people. As well, the Charlotte County Islands and Passamaquoddy Bay would be at risk, even in the event of a minor oil spill. This particular area is used by a large variety of birds either for breeding or as a staging area on their migratory route to and from their prime nesting or wintering