

If federal legislation is to be applied in the whole of Canada, there will be much to do at the provincial, municipal and industrial levels, and even in the United States. This will probably take a few years, in spite of all the wishes that action be taken without delay and in spite of the justified fears of the evil consequences if nothing is done immediately.

The federal support is timely and should now be welcomed everywhere.

I am of the opinion that this legislative measure on pollution should be formulated with a view to setting up general principles in consultation with the provinces and other interests concerned.

To my mind, federal financing could be limited to such aid as can not yet be provided for by direct sources, to provide for the most pressing works in which our Government is implicated. In existing industrial plants, expenditures towards controlling pollution could be allowed as ordinary expenses instead of having them capitalized. That being provided, it seems to me the other activities in that field, however attractive they may be for Ottawa, are after all the responsibility and privilege of provincial governments, of municipalities and industries, for any regional action in line with the established national objectives.

Recently, Mr. Pearson, our former prime minister, made a stirring appeal to prosperous countries and to Canada in favour of countries in need of assistance. We have indeed the feeling that our Canadian Government has a special responsibility and that we will have to respond to such an appeal by making a careful assessment of foreign needs in comparison with the difficulties encountered here in Canada.

The financial situation of all Canadian governments, especially that of provincial and municipal governments; the tremendous increase of deficits and debts; the already belated requirements of such heavy appropriations to implement some anti-pollution measures, for instance; the number of underdeveloped areas in Canada and the fact that Canada has still to solve the problem of its 4 million destitute citizens—all these considerations could restrict, from a practical point of view, the reaction our Government would like to create.

There is moreover the extent to which some Canadian industries, such as the textile industry, may have to face competitive products, based on a scale entirely different from that of production costs. The Pearson Report is valuable in that it submits the requests made outside Canada so clearly and urgently

that it may result in a substantial increase of better co-ordinated foreign assistance. Its objectives, even though possibly not all fulfilled, will remain objectives that we shall have to preserve.

One could not but expect that Canada would someday have its ambassador to the Vatican. According to the columnists, a number of changes are responsible for the appointment of a Canadian ambassador at this time. We welcome the fact that consideration of the various religions as a basis for political divisions is rapidly disappearing in Canada. The emphasis itself has changed and is now directed towards a more ecumenic spirit and a better understanding of the values and beliefs we have in common.

Concurrently, it is felt more and more that, in the uneasy world of today, multiple diplomatic contacts seem to be the best thing for everybody concerned.

Once again, Canada is taking a step forward in world diplomacy. In the age of fast communications, Canada has repealed as outdated and unimaginative the old practice of refusing to have relations with those who are not understood and of isolating them.

The Vatican has now been recognized as a state for over 40 years. It has gained its territorial independence and has now diplomatic relations with 69 countries.

Indeed, the Canadian government would have put itself in a rather strange position had it actively sought an exchange of ambassadors with Communist China while refusing such an exchange with the Vatican.

One should not underestimate the possible benefits which may result from this exchange of ambassadors with the Vatican.

As one commentator reported, the value of diplomatic relations is something which grows with the years, in situations which are unpredictable at this time, and which can emerge in a troubled world. So, the Vatican, with its ramifications and its world-wide relations, its long experience, and its concern for anything of universal and human significance, has obviously much to offer in the way of diplomatic relations at the highest and most direct level.

In a rapidly shrinking and increasingly complex world, Canada, through its Prime Minister, has acted wisely and in the best interests of the country in deciding to create an increasing number of diplomatic posts, and especially that at the Vatican, which always has free access everywhere in difficult times.

[Hon. Mr. Desruisseaux.]