

Detergent discovery may help housewife—and environment

A Canadian professor claims to have discovered a harmless substitute for one of the major sources of pollution in North America—the phosphate ingredient used in household detergents.

Philip Jones, vice chairman of the University of Toronto's environmental science and engineering program and associate director of its Great Lakes Institute, says he has developed a benign substitute for phosphates that does not reduce detergent cleaning power.

Phosphates are the most significant pollution factor in the Great Lakes, according to a report by experts to the International Joint Commission, which

is comprised of U.S. and Canadian members dealing with such matters of mutual concern.


Much of the detergents used by industry and the domestic market end up in waterways and lakes. The phosphates therein are blamed for the rapid growth of green slime algae which rob the water of oxygen and thus become destructive to marine life.

About one million tons of synthetic detergents are used in North America annually, and manufacturers have traditionally claimed that detergents without phosphates have reduced cleaning power.

Dr. Jones, who is both a civil engi-

neer and a microbiologist, says that Canadian housewives have tested his phosphate-free detergent and found it just as good as commercial brands and in some cases superior.

Canadian Resources Minister J. J. Greene announced recently that federal regulations to reduce phosphate content in detergents will come into effect about August 1 and that phosphates will probably be banned in Canada within three years.

Mr. Greene has stated in the House of Commons that Canada will work with the U.S. and the provinces to control the threat of phosphates to lakes and rivers. 

U.S. National Bird

Bald eagle finds last refuge in Pacific Northwest



The bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, is in danger of becoming extinct primarily because of the profligate use of pesticides.

Only in remote parts of British Columbia in Canada and in Alaska are

the birds holding their own. They are now extremely rare in the eastern half of the continent.

Contamination of fish that provide the main staple of its diet is the main factor in the bird's demise. Agricul-

tural pesticides are being carried into the rivers and streams in the United States in the principal feeding areas.

These pesticides affect the food supply of the fish and are absorbed into the flesh of the fish themselves. Fisheating birds such as the bald eagle suffer a hormone imbalance as a result of eating the contaminated fish. This causes the birds to lay eggs with shells so thin they crumble like chalk before offspring can be hatched.

In remote parts of Alaska and B. C. the bald eagles are able to feed on ocean-bred salmon in pollution-free rivers that run to the sea.

One of the main gathering points for bald eagles in British Columbia is the area around Squamish, 40 miles north of Vancouver. There they return each fall and winter to feast on the spawning salmon.

When the spawning season ends in February the eagles turn to the nearby woodlands where they feed on marmots and ground squirrels, until the next year's spawning season. 