

the Skagit as a recreation facility will provide yet another key recreation resource to serve the burgeoning recreation demands in the Lower Mainland."

The attitude of the Government of British Columbia is, of course, of vital importance as under the constitution it is responsible for the geographic area involved. The Government of B.C. has indicated its determined opposition to the proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley.

There are of course numerous private Canadian interests opposed to the flooding many of whom are registered as intervenors before the Federal Power Commission. The Government of Canada hopes it will prove possible for the Commission to hold a hearing in the region of the flooding to facilitate attendance by these interests.

The LJC's 1971 study was necessarily hurried and could well be supplemented by more detailed and comprehensive surveys. Moreover, the terms of reference for the study were restricted and did not allow the Commission to voice an opinion on whether the High Ross Dam project should proceed. Nevertheless, it did reveal that the Valley is ecologically exceptional, if not unique. The Valley lies in an area of transition between the humid coastal and semi-arid interior climates. The resulting mix of plant and animal species is attractive, unusual and of considerable scientific interest. In its report, the LJC recognized this feature of the Valley and stated that "... the valley is uncommon. There may be other locations for each element of the Skagit environment but there are few valleys, if any, which are equivalent to the complete Skagit Valley". It is the destruction of