
The future is extremely uncertain. Our known reserves of oil and gas are more limited than was estimated five years ago. If we do not make new discoveries, we shall be able to avoid shortages over the next ten years only by a much greater dependence on foreign suppliers.

There is one way in which every Canadian can help to lessen our energy problem. That is by reducing personal consumption and wastage of energy, so that the nation's energy demands will not continue to grow at the reckless rate of recent years. In addition, the Government might have to encourage industry to reduce its consumption -- by producing longer-lasting consumer goods, for example, so that we shall use less energy and fewer materials to replace or repair the things we buy.

We stand second in the world in *per capita* consumption of energy, largely because we squander it in a manner that betrays no recognition of the reality that is staring us in the face. Conservation and much more careful stewardship of our resources must surely be prominent characteristics of the new society we need to create.

Pollution-control has been frustrated, up to now, by "buck-passing" among governments, industries and individual citizens. In addition, we have allowed ourselves the complacency of measuring the problem solely in terms of the dollar cost of cleaning it up. It is becoming clearer every day that we must become more sensitive to the true cost in terms of ill health and long-lasting damage to nature and to the quality of our lives. We must begin right away to appreciate the growing seriousness of the problem, become more willing to accept our share of the responsibility, more receptive to the need for basic change in some old and familiar industrial and personal habits. Here is a very real opportunity for individual citizens and organized groups to help bring about change by putting pressure on industry, and on governments at all levels.

Motor-vehicle accidents in 1974 caused over 6,000 deaths and more than 230,000 injuries in Canada. The dollar cost is estimated at \$1.3 billion in property damage, another \$1 billion in lost work-time, \$250 million in medical bills. Slower speed limits, the compulsory use of seat-belts and stricter control of drinking drivers might reduce the death and injury rate by as much as 50 per cent. If we agree that we cannot afford such a scandalous waste of people and resources, then we must consider accepting a more reasonable balance between our freedom to own and drive a car, and restrictions on the way we use that car.

We have yet to achieve a proper balance between the public interest
