

*Continued from page two*

point program, which for the first time accepts common water standards, outlines methods to achieve them, and gives greater authority to the IJC, administratively and jurisdictionally.

The Commission will monitor the scene and is expected to ask for appropriate government action against violators. It will have no enforcement powers itself and there will be no redress in international court. Mr. Sharp said lawbreakers will be tried "in the world court of public opinion."

THE REPORT shows most pollution originates on the U.S. shores, and consequently the implementation will cost the United States about two billion dollars—at least half from the federal government and the rest from state and city monies. Canada will need to spend several hundred million dollars—"over two," said an IJC spokesman, "but under a billion."

The commission has identified the Niagara River into Lake Ontario and particularly the Detroit River into Lake Erie as the main source of all pollution in the lakes.

Before World War II, Lake Erie was mesotrophic, probably the best a relatively shallow lake in a populated area could be. Mesotrophy is a healthy balance of fish and plant life, fed by a reasonable supply of nutrients from municipal and industrial sewage. Today the abundance of these wastes has brought Lake Erie closer and closer to eutrophication, where super-rich water fosters so much plantlife the rotting vegetation

sinks and smothers the oxygen which fish need to breathe. This is a change that would have taken tens of thousands of years to accomplish naturally. Lake Ontario, deeper than Erie, stagnates much more slowly. Thirty years ago it was oligotrophic—the sort of water some of us remember from our childhoods, clear and clean with fish but little algae, a swimmer's haven. Now Lake Ontario is basically mesotrophic.

A combination of nitrogen and phosphorus triggers eutrophication and if only one is removed, the process can be reversed. Fortunately, phosphorus can be, and more cheaply, easily and quickly than any other pollutant. Eighty to 95 percent can be eliminated by better sewage treatment and the job would be simpler still if phosphates were banned from detergents, which account for 70 percent of the municipal wastes from the United States and half from Canada. The rest primarily comes from human excrement, the cause of bacterial contamination, and to some extent, from farmland erosion.

Although only ten miles of the Canadian shoreline on Lake Erie is polluted by bacterial contamination, one-third of the stateside shoreline is fouled by it, "continuously or intermittently," the IJC reported. Beaches in Toronto and Rochester, on Lake Ontario, near the mouth of the Niagara River, have been closed.

Canada already has limited the phosphate content in detergents to twenty percent and is about to lower it to five. The IJC wants it banned altogether in both countries.

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