

order. A good engineer understands the forces of nature; a good economist, because he takes the long view, must also be concerned with nature's biological scheme of things.

New jobs are needed. Challenging new jobs are needed everywhere. But it is often the character of these jobs, rather than their number, which is at issue. They, like the industries to which they are attached, must go with the grain of nature, not against it. We must add to the variety of life. They must help to make the process of living more interesting for everyone everywhere.

CARE ABOUT HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Of course we must be careful. We must not make unnatural substances and scatter them around. Produced for one purpose, they may have unfortunate side-effects which come back to haunt us in the long run. Hence the emphasis on biodegradation - on the need to replace insidious substances like DDT with other chemicals which are not harmful to living things.

These observations flow from our own experience in Canada. Artificial substances like the polychlorinated bi-phenols (PCBs) have had a devastating effect on our salmon runs and our bird life. We have stopped using them for this reason. We have replaced them with other substances which are more effective from an over-all, resource-management point of view.

We have learned, to our sorrow, that insect sprays which help to preserve certain forests can also destroy a local fishery. We have learned that new processes using mercury, while they tended to cut the costs of other chemicals, constituted a hazard to man himself. Nor were these effects localized in their extent. Frequently they spread to other segments of our Canadian community, from province to province, and into the international sphere as well.

We moved quickly to contain these substances, to stop their production - either that or recycle them, keep them entirely within the factory fence.

There is an interesting corollary here. In protecting our local environment, we are often protecting the environment of our neighbour. By practising environmental statesmanship, we are also helping to enhance the quality of life in lands that we will never see. Good neighbourliness, like cleanliness, begins at home. Multiplied by similar actions on the part of others, it can be an environmental boon to all mankind.

GLOBAL OBJECTS

The draft Declaration on the Human Environment, which we will be shortly considering, Mr. President, contains certain basic principles which Canada endorses as a desirable code for international behaviour. There is, for example, the principle that each nation accept responsibility for the effects of its environmental actions on others. Too often in the

past the interests of our global community have been sacrificed by the short-sightedness, I might even say the callousness, of the few.

"Thou shalt not pollute the environment of thy neighbour, the ocean or the atmosphere" - this dictum seems self-evident to me. I trust that it will become a part of our global environmental ethic in the future.

I am a firm believer, also, in environmental objectives and standards, levels of performance, which are based essentially on biological criteria, but criteria which also make economic sense as well.

These global objectives, these global standards, involve a simple test. This test pertains to life itself. Living things must not only continue to survive, they must flourish. If anything, they should increase in their number and variety as the years go by.

Remember, also, that life in its most sophisticated forms is our own first line of defence. Endanger a single species at the top of the food-chain and you are endangering the lives of men, women and children everywhere. Wipe out an animal species like the whale, or a bird like the bald-headed eagle, and mankind may shortly be in trouble too.

These elementary standards, these biological tests, these natural criteria should not be confined to any one country. Properly drawn, they are valid everywhere. They rest on a universal truth and they should, therefore, be global in their application.

Nature's laws are difficult to define. This is why we need more research - especially research on the biological front. But a lack of information should not be allowed to obscure an important point - the case for world-wide standards I believe, is incontestable. It is incontestable, not only because the cost of being clean may not be a cost at all but because the destruction of all kinds of living things is bound to be destructive from the point of view of society as a whole.

POLLUTION IS INEXCUSABLE

Pollution havens are not for us. They are inexcusable in a comparatively affluent country like Canada. They are inexcusable, also, in the less-developed parts of the world. They are inexcusable because they are short-sighted, because they ignore the destruction, close in, of other resources. They are inexcusable because they also tend to make the lives of the local population a dull, drab and even painful thing.

Mr. President, a great deal is expected of this Conference - a great deal in the allied fields of research monitoring and resource management. It can also help us to establish the kinds of global standard that I have been talking about. A number of international institutions will have to be set up for this purpose and, above all, to ensure that our man-made rules approximate ever more closely nature's marvellous way of doing things.