

Whatever Canada may gain from broadening and deepening its international relations, Canadian relations with the United States will always remain unique in their complexity, their closeness and their dynamic quality. This dynamic quality, this readiness to innovate, was most recently exemplified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Control Agreement signed by President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa last month.

This agreement is one that will affect all of us here and is of particular interest to those living in the vast urban conglomerations surrounding the Great Lakes, such as Buffalo, Toronto, Detroit and Chicago. For it is these cities and the people living in them that have done much to despoil the natural beauties and purity of the Great Lakes system. Canadians and Americans now have the opportunity and responsibility to restore to the Great Lakes a large measure of the purity which once was theirs. Every one of us, whatever his special field or knowledge, has to live with the consequences of what man does and is doing to his environment. As a representative of a Toronto constituency, I am particularly conscious of the resources our countries possess in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement will not only protect that resource but will do a great deal more. In a wide range of man's activities on and in the Lakes, we are re-examining those activities to determine their effect on the environment and to compensate for or eliminate that effect where necessary. This agreement establishes a co-operative framework through which, for many years to come, our two countries will work to defeat a common enemy -- pollution. The tribute to our friendship and co-operation enshrined in it will be visible long after any of the present differences between our two countries, which at the moment seem to loom so large, are forgotten.

It is in this spirit that I see Canadians and Americans living and working together in the future as neighbours and doing their utmost to ensure that the quality of life for all their citizens is as rich as possible.