

- (3) The Detroit River remains the chief problem in the Connecting Channels, mainly because of the heavy concentration of population and industry and consequently of pollutants on the United States side. However, many of the industrial establishments concerned are now in compliance with the effluent standards established by the Michigan Water Resources Commission. Others have completed installation of the abatement facilities required but are encountering operational problems in meeting these standards. These and the remaining industries are in discussion with the MWRC regarding additional measures and programmes necessary for compliance. The MWRC testified that it expected substantial improvement in 1969 and conformity with the IJC water quality objectives by November, 1970. The Municipal situation on the United States side also has necessitated large and costly programmes of development which, on the basis of the MWRC evidence, should so reduce pollution flowing from the Detroit and Wayne County sewerage systems that the IJC objectives will be met by November, 1970.

While the volume of municipal sewage discharged to the Detroit River on the Canadian side is a great deal less than on the U.S. side, much of it at present is untreated. This situation will be corrected with the completion this summer of Windsor's primary treatment plant and trunk sewers. Expansion of the treatment facilities and a higher degree of treatment are now under consideration with the OWRC. Of the industrial establishments discharging wastes on the Canadian side of the river, all but two are in essential compliance with the OWRC effluent objectives or are actively pursuing approved programmes to achieve compliance. The two plants whose programmes are not presently satisfactory are in discussion with OWRC officials.

The Commission has taken some encouragement from these meetings. They have served to concentrate public attention upon the facts of the situation and upon the programmes of the authorities for dealing with them. We believe also that these meetings have had the effect of strengthening the hands of those responsible for abatement control and enforcement and that they have stimulated and directed public opinion of both countries in constructive support of such endeavours.