

I will certainly admit that Canada does not have clean hands when it comes to acid rain. But we have moved to cut back our sulphur dioxide emissions, and we are committed to doing much more. Look at the facts.

In Canada as a whole, 50 per cent of our acid rain originates in the United States, and in the regions of particular concern, such as the tourist and recreation areas of Ontario, as much as 75 per cent of the acid rain comes from the United States. We receive far more acid rain than we export. Because of the circumstances of both our economy and geography, we are far more vulnerable to it.

It is estimated that if SO₂ emissions could be reduced by 50 per cent in eastern Canada and the eastern United States, the vast majority of the lakes and streams threatened by it would be safe. We in Canada are prepared to undertake such an emission reduction by 1990, and we have made the offer to you to do it if you will take a parallel course of action.

That is why I'm speaking to you today. I'm here to plead, ask, wheedle, even cajole the United States to try to clean up the emissions that lead to acid rain. What I am asking of you is no less than what we Canadians are prepared to do. I ask it of you as neighbours, as our best friends and closest trading partners. I ask it because it is in the best long-term economic self interest of both our countries. And I ask it in the name of our precious resources of forest, water and wildlife, treasures that are the heritage of us all.

Sometimes, however, when Canadians plead with the United States to institute some controls, or even when we release scientific information south of the border, we are accused of interfering in American internal affairs.

Situation urgent

As a good friend of the United States, and of Americans, I do not think I am meddling when I frankly point these things out to you. The situation is extremely urgent; our lakes are literally dying.

Despite the lip service that is being given to the so-called scientific lack of knowledge about acid rain, the real reasons why very little is being done about it in the United States are economic, and I know this very well. The main source of acid rain in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States is the industrial belt that stretches roughly from Pittsburgh to Chicago, and includes the great coal-burning regions of Ohio and Indiana. To clean up acid rain, to install the scrubbers and other technical solutions that are available right now will cost money, as I have said. I know that the solution will pinch a little bit; it is already pinching us in Canada.

Over ten years ago both Canada and the United States strengthened their laws to clean the air in our cities. We have both made tremendous progress. The air in our cities is purer. However, some of our industries stopped local air pollution by building
