



REMARKS BY
THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM G. DAVIS
PREMIER OF ONTARIO

THOROLD, ONTARIO
TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1973

DEDICATION CEREMONIES
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM
ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS VERY IMPORTANT POLLUTION ABATEMENT INSTALLATION AND ALSO TO JOIN IN OBSERVING THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY AT ITS LOCATION HERE IN THOROLD.

IN VIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS PRESENT, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE UNITED STATES, IT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO PERHAPS TOUCH BRIEFLY ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN TO A GATHERING SUCH AS THIS AS THEY RELATE TO POLLUTION ABATEMENT AND CONTROL.

THOUGH SOME OF THE THINGS I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS DEAL PRIMARILY WITH THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, I HOPE THAT THEY WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND TO OUR AMERICAN GUESTS.

FIRST, HOWEVER, LET ME CONGRATULATE THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY FOR INSTITUTING ITS THREE-STAGE \$9.2 MILLION ABATEMENT PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN 1969. THIS FACILITY REPRESENTS THE LAST AND MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THAT PROGRAM AND IS CERTAINLY THE MOST EXPENSIVE -- ACCOUNTING FOR SOME \$7.2 MILLION OF THE TOTAL.

I'D LIKE TO PAUSE RIGHT THERE AND SUGGEST THAT THIS TYPE OF PRIVATE-SECTOR INITIATIVE, FINANCED BY THAT SORT OF EXPENDITURE, RALLIES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN THE OFTEN-USED PHRASE ABOUT "GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP." WHAT WE HAVE HERE TODAY IS NOT A SLOGAN BUT SOMETHING WE CAN SEE AND TOUCH.

IT IS ALSO, I VENTURE TO SUGGEST, TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF SOMETHING I PERSONALLY HAVE LONG BELIEVED -- THAT THE TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS TODAY IS ALSO A TECHNOLOGY CAPABLE OF ABATING AND CONTROLLING THEM.

IN APPROACHING THESE PROBLEMS, THE COURSE OF EXTREME ACTION IS VERY TEMPTING TO BOTH ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO VARIOUS REGULATORY AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT; BUT I SUGGEST THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOLVING A PROBLEM AND WIPING A PROBLEM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

FOR INSTANCE, I AM SURE THAT MANY OF US FROM TIME TO TIME HAVE BEEN DRIVING ALONG A ROAD OR A HIGHWAY AND HAVE SEEN A CHIMNEY STACK OF SOME INDUSTRIAL PLANT BELCHING FORTH A STEADY COLUMN OF SMOKE. OUR FIRST REACTION HAS BEEN ALONG THE LINES OF "THEY OUGHT TO CLOSE THAT PLACE DOWN."

THIS REACTION, HOWEVER, IS SELDOM IF EVER SHARED BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOODS AT THAT PLANT, NOR BY THE FAMILIES THAT THEY HAVE TO SUPPORT. INDEED, SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN A HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED ONTARIO CITY, I HEARD OF A WORKER GOING HOME AT THE END OF HIS SHIFT WITH HIS SON WHO'D JUST RETURNED FROM COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE'D EARNED A FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP.

THE SON WAS BRUSHING SPECKS OF ASH FROM THE ATMOSPHERE FROM HIS SHIRT AND COMPLAINED THAT THE OLD HOME TOWN HAD REALLY BECOME POLLUTED. THE FATHER REPLIED PHILOSOPHICALLY:

"DON'T KNOCK IT, BOY. IT'S THE SOOT OF SECURITY."

FOR MANY PEOPLE, IT STILL IS -- BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY IS SUCH, OR IS BECOMING SUCH, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SECURITY OF EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO PUT UP WITH THE SOOT OR THE POLLUTION OF STREAMS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH SOME INDUSTRIAL ENDEAVOURS.

THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY'S THREE-STAGE POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAM, AND THE INSTALLATION WE ARE OPENING TODAY, CAME AFTER THE FACT. IN SAYING THAT, I AM NOT IMPLYING ANY CRITICISM NOR SHOULD ANYONE INFER ANY CRITICISM. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT YOU DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ABATE ANYTHING OR ATTEMPT TO CONTROL ANYTHING UNTIL IT EXISTS, OR UNTIL IT IS RECOGNIZED TO EXIST AS A PROBLEM. AND SO, IN ANY JURISDICTION IN THE WORLD WHERE A POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY EXISTS, A GOOD PORTION OF ITS ACTIVITIES ARE NECESSARILY AFTER THE FACT.

AS MOST OF YOU FROM ONTARIO ARE AWARE, A PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT WAS ESTABLISHED ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, AND IT INCORPORATED ALL PHASES OF POLLUTION CONTROL -- CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION, WATER POLLUTION, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE ABUSES OF PESTICIDES. THIS MINISTRY COMBINED ALREADY EXISTING AGENCIES UNDER ONE ROOF.

ONTARIO CERTAINLY HASN'T SOLVED ALL ITS POLLUTION PROBLEMS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN POLLUTION ABATEMENT. WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED GOALS, AND IN MOST CASES THE MECHANICS OF REACHING THOSE GOALS IN OUR EXISTING CONTROL PROGRAMS.

WITH THIS IN MIND, THE PROVINCE NOW INTENDS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION BEFORE IT IS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP. ONE OF THE WAYS WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IS THROUGH A SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, AND A GREEN PAPER IS BEING PREPARED ON THIS SUBJECT AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

SUCH AN ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WOULD OBVIOUSLY CALL FOR A NUMBER OF SUCCESSIVE STAGES, WHICH I AM SURE WILL BE OUTLINED IN DETAIL IN OUR GREEN PAPER. THE NET EFFECT OF THIS TYPE OF BEFORE-THE-FACT ASSESSMENT WOULD BE TO HELP US AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL PITFALLS AT THE OUTSET. NEW PROJECTS COULD BE ANALYSED AT THE CONCEPTUAL STAGE TO ALLOW FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES. POLLUTION CONTROL WOULD BEGIN AT THE DRAWING BOARD RATHER THAN BEING IMPOSED LONG AFTER A FACILITY HAS BEEN BUILT.

AS I SAY, THIS GREEN PAPER WILL BE BY DEFINITION A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT. IT WILL OUTLINE PROPOSALS AND SOLICIT PUBLIC RESPONSE AND INVOLVEMENT PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION OR WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE SYSTEM. WE INTEND TO APPROACH THIS PROCESS OF EVALUATION WITH CARE AND REASON. TO DO OTHERWISE COULD BE DISRUPTIVE AND EVEN HARMFUL. THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS OR ABSOLUTES IN THIS AREA AND WE WILL NEED TO FEEL OUR WAY CAREFULLY. I CAN ASSURE YOU WE INTEND TO AVOID EXTREME POSITIONS. WHILE THIS MAY NOT PLEASE SOME IT IS I FEEL, THE ONLY REASONABLE COURSE.

WITH THIS IN MIND WE WOULD PROPOSE TO EVALUATE FIRST ONLY LARGE PUBLICLY FINANCED PROJECTS, SUCH AS THOSE WITHIN POWER AND TRANSPORTATION FIELDS, AND THEN MOVE SLOWLY INTO OTHER AREAS AS WE DEVELOP THE CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE.

ONTARIO, OF COURSE, DOES NOT INTEND TO ABANDON ITS CLEANUP PROGRAMS THAT DEAL WITH EXISTING POLLUTION PROBLEMS. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS A NEW AREA OF ENDEAVOUR FOR THE PROVINCE BUT ONE THAT WILL HAVE TO EXIST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PRESENT POLLUTION ABATEMENT.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE AGENCIES THAT PRECEDED IT, HAS ENCOURAGED AND APPROVED MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWAGE WORKS WORTH MORE THAN \$2.6 BILLION. LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, \$344 MILLION IN SEWAGE AND WATER WORKS WERE APPROVED AND \$75 MILLION WORTH OF THESE PROJECTS INVOLVED DIRECT PROVINCIAL FINANCING.

COMBINE THIS TYPE OF WATER AND SEWAGE PROGRAM WITH INDUSTRIAL WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT SUCH AS THAT ACCOMPLISHED HERE BY THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY, AND IT BECOMES APPARENT HOW ONTARIO IS HELPING TO KEEP CANADA'S HALF OF THE BARGAIN EMBODIED IN THE CANADA-U.S. GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT SIGNED A YEAR AGO. THE CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY COMMITTED ONTARIO TO A FIVE-YEAR \$250 MILLION CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM TO UPGRADE SEWAGE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT WORKS IN THE GREAT LAKES BY THE END OF 1975. IN RETURN, THROUGH THE CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A PARALLEL PROGRAM.

THE GREAT LAKES PROGRAM IS OBVIOUSLY INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE. LAST FALL, I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DIFFERENCE IN WHAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MIGHT PROPOSE AND WHAT MIGHT BE DELIVERED BY THE CONGRESS. SINCE THEN, EVENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT A DISCREPANCY DOES EXIST, BUT THE REVERSE HAS TURNED OUT TO BE THE CASE. THE PROGRAMS OF THE ADMINISTRATION ARE FALLING BEHIND THE PROPOSALS OF THE CONGRESS.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION IS THE WATCHDOG AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR REPORT DUE TO BE RELEASED SOON ON THE AGREEMENT'S FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION, OF COURSE, IS NOT THE ONLY FORM OF POLLUTION CONTROL ONTARIO IS ENGAGED IN. SINCE 1968, WHEN THE PROVINCE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES, MAJOR SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION HAVE BEEN SURVEYED AND PLACED ON CONTROL PROGRAMS TO BRING THEIR EMISSIONS INTO LINE WITH PROVINCIAL STANDARDS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING A CONTROL PROGRAM TO REDUCE ITS EMISSIONS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND PARTICULATES.

THE RESULTS OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING. USING TORONTO AS AN EXAMPLE OF A HEAVILY-INDUSTRIALIZED AREA, BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971, SULPHUR DIOXIDE LEVELS WERE CUT IN HALF AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER READINGS WERE REDUCED BY A THIRD.

ONE FORM OF AIR POLLUTION THAT WE ARE JUST COMING TO GRIPS WITH IS NOISE. PROPOSED CONTROL PROGRAMS INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NOISE CRITERIA AND OVERALL NOISE LEVELS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND RURAL MIXES; THE DRAFTING OF A MODEL NOISE BY-LAW FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT WILL BE MORE READILY ENFORCEABLE THAN EXISTING ONES; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULATIONS FOR CONTROLLING NOISE FROM VEHICLES, STATIONARY SOURCES, AND RECREATIONAL MACHINERY.

IT HAS BEEN JUST OVER TWO YEARS SINCE THE PROVINCE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROL OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS. THIS ENTAILS ALL TYPES OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, INDUSTRIAL SOLID AND LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL ON LAND, AND THAT OF OTHER WASTES SUCH AS LITTER AND ABANDONED VEHICLES.

COPING WITH THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF SOLID WASTE BEING PRODUCED IN ONTARIO IS A MAJOR PART OF OUR PRESENT CONCERN, BUT OUR PRIME GOAL FOR THE FUTURE IS THE RECLAMATION AND RE-USE OF MATERIAL AND ENERGY. AS PART OF OUR PLANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BUILD AN EXPERIMENTAL WASTE RECLAMATION PLANT. RATHER THAN BEING THE SOLUTION FOR THE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES OF ONE MUNICIPALITY OR REGION, THIS PLANT WILL SERVE AS A SOLID WASTE RESEARCH LABORATORY, PROVIDING US WITH PRACTICAL WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE RECYCLING PLANS.

TO MOST PEOPLE THE WORD RECYCLING MEANS THE PHYSICAL RE-PROCESSING OF MATERIAL. HOWEVER, RECYCLING CAN ALSO INVOLVE RE-USE OF THE ENERGY THAT WASTE PRODUCTS REPRESENT. TO EFFECT THE RECYCLING OF ENERGY, THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE USE OF GARBAGE AS A FUEL.

ONE SUCH APPLICATION COULD BE THE BURNING OF REFUSE IN CONNECTION WITH FOSSIL FUELS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. A GOVERNMENT STUDY TEAM IS EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF PRODUCING ELECTRICITY IN THIS WAY AT THE LAKEVIEW GENERATING STATION IN TORONTO.

LAKEVIEW WAS CHOSEN OVER OTHER POSSIBLE LOCATIONS BECAUSE IT BURNS PULVERIZED COAL AND THEREFORE HAS ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES THAT REMOVE PARTICULATE MATTER SUCH AS ASH. SINCE BURNING GARBAGE PRODUCES A LARGER QUANTITY OF ASH THAN COAL, THIS EQUIPMENT IS VITAL TO ANY INSTALLATION CONTEMPLATING USING GARBAGE AS A FUEL, TO SAFEGUARD THE AIR QUALITY IN THE AREA. IF THIS PROGRAM PROVES SUCCESSFUL, GARBAGE COULD REPLACE BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PERCENT OF THE COAL NOW BEING USED.

I MUST CONFESS THAT TO A LAYMAN'S EARS SOME OF THIS MAY SOUND A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED, BUT THEN I IMAGINE THAT WHEN THE ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY BEGAN OPERATIONS IN THOROLD IN 1913 NOBODY COULD HAVE FORESEEN THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES THAT HAVE LED TO THIS FACILITY WE SEE HERE TODAY BECOMING A REALITY.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS, SUCH AS THOSE ACCOMPLISHED BY ONTARIO PAPER'S LATEST POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM, WILL DEFINITELY HELP ONTARIO IN ITS EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP THE OLD WELLAND CANAL AND BY EXTENSION THE GREAT LAKES, AS WELL AS PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR THE COMPANY'S NEIGHBOURS IN THIS AREA OF THE PROVINCE.

ACCORDINGLY, IT GIVES ME CONSIDERABLE PLEASURE TO DECLARE THIS CHEMICAL RECOVERY PLANT OFFICIALLY OPEN.