

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1959

Dear Governor McKay:

The Governments of the United States and Canada have been informed that the waters of the Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods are being polluted by sewage and industrial wastes emptied into these waters. Having in mind the provisions of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty signed January 11, 1909, that boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other side, the two Governments have agreed upon a joint Reference of the matter to the International Joint Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Article IX of said Treaty. The Commission is requested to inquire into and to report to the two Governments upon the following questions:

(1) Are the waters referred to in the preceding paragraph, or any of them, actually being polluted on either side of the boundary to the injury of health or property on the other side of the boundary?

(2) If the foregoing question is answered in the affirmative, to what extent, by what causes, and in what localities is such pollution taking place?

(3) If the Commission should find that pollution of the character just referred to is taking place, what measures for remedying the situation would, in its judgment, be most practicable from the economic, sanitary and other points of view?

(4) If the Commission should find that the construction or maintenance of remedial or preventive works is necessary to render the waters sanitary and suitable for domestic and other

uses

The Honorable
Douglas McKay,
Chairman, United States Section,
International Joint Commission,
Washington 25, D. C.



uses, it should indicate the nature, location, and extent of such works, and the probable cost thereof, and by whom and in what proportions such cost should be borne.

For the purpose of assisting the Commission in making the investigation and recommendations provided for in this Reference, the two Governments will, upon request, make available to the Commission the services of engineers and other specially qualified personnel of their governmental agencies, and such information and technical data as may have been acquired by such agencies or as may be acquired by them during the course of the investigation.

The Commission should submit its report and recommendations to the two Governments as soon as practicable.

Sincerely yours,

Deer Murphy

Acting Secretary