



SUNDBLAD AGENCY INC.

100 South Main Street

Ishpeming, Michigan

Phone HU: 6-8931

John,

I am "stumped" on  
the word circled in  
red on your page 18  
(yellow page 31).

Thank you for the  
generous check. Hope  
the big job is  
satisfactory.

Bernice



dropped everything and ~~subtly~~ felt

About then I ~~begin~~ to feel a little ill so I packed for Lake Superior -- without my fishing gear -- and prowled for ~~many~~ hours along a remote and lonely stretch of rugged shore. And as I prowled,

feeling depressed and in a state of near despair, I wondered along with the philosopher Stuart Hampshire, <sup>recently</sup> ~~as he had~~ <sup>speculated,</sup> whether it might not be ~~all too true~~ "That

human beings are unhappy animals, who deface their environment and spread ugliness and destruction around them, [and] ~~that they are~~ an unstable accident of evolution." (Quotation ~~taken~~ from ~~page 112~~ of Mr. Hampshire's new book, Modern Writers and Other Essays, Knopf, 1970.)

... are



As I ~~struggled~~ picked my way along <sup>a strip of</sup> the  
rocky shore other equally cosmic thoughts  
assailed me. "How," I asked myself, "how  
can educated and ostensibly cultured men  
~~not~~ bring themselves to do what the  
Reserve people are doing and, beyond that,  
how in God's name can the rest of us  
let them do it?" And if nevertheless we could  
continued to allow a small band of acquisitive men to  
ruin the world's loveliest lake what ~~real~~ chance  
was there of ~~not~~ saving the <sup>rest of the</sup> country <sup>middle</sup> or the world?



by using <sup>its</sup> profits <sup>to win</sup>  
~~that very pollution~~

Had the grim specter of pollution in our land become merely an annoying public relations problem to those guilty of it, a problem that would vanish not by stopping the pollution but by denying its existence, by ridiculing those who ~~could~~ <sup>found</sup> pollution or ~~by~~ <sup>winning</sup> them over, by <sup>relentlessly</sup> employing the dark arts of lobbying, by crying doom and pleading poverty, by conjuring up the <sup>goblins</sup> ~~apparitions~~ of unemployment, by engaging in endless delaying litigation, by declaring over and over that black was white, in short by using every dreary dodge and trick and ploy in the whole dreary public-relations book to divert and distract attention from the ghastly truth? Just ~~then~~ about then, a haunting line from one of Auden's poems came back to me, <sup>with</sup> like the <sup>force</sup> ~~sting~~ of a lash: "Words have no word for words that are not true." (Quoted by Stuart Hampshire in his essay on Auden in his new book, earlier cited, the title of the blindly poem not being given.) I looked out ~~across~~ my stricken lake and stumbled on.

GOBLIN



The further I walked the more dolorous  
grew my thoughts. Was it possible that all our  
wholesale polluting and assorted swinishness  
was the symptom of some deeper malaise  
that ~~would~~ <sup>could</sup> not get better until men got  
better? ~~Were men, indeed, bent upon planetary~~  
~~the real sickness of men, that they were~~  
~~bent upon planetary suicide?~~ Or was modern  
society spawning a new breed of plastic  
men who had lost -- or never <sup>of modern barbarians</sup> possessed  
any reverence for nature? <sup>a breed of primitive men in Brooks Brothers suits</sup> men who measured  
the morality of any course of action not by  
asking whether it was right but whether it  
was profitable and could be got away with?

Might  
Could not  
~~some~~

Bernici: Follow <sup>as I have it</sup> the? mark as I have it,  
with a small "a" thus: ... nature? a breed of  
modern barbarians in Brooks Brothers suits who measured  
etc etc. (It is unusual but OK)



amongst  
I ~~even~~ <sup>also</sup> thought of the ubiquitous  
litter bugs and armies of small-time  
slobs and wondered how they could ever  
be expected to mend their ways if a  
tiny ~~band~~ band of callous fat cats  
could contrive to rape the world's loveliest  
lake. And <sup>for that matter</sup> why should ~~even~~ <sup>even</sup> a modest  
weekend lakeside cottager who <sup>dutifully</sup> carried a  
litter bag in his <sup>car</sup> ~~shortaged~~ <sup>over</sup> ever  
bother to fix his leaky septic tank when  
these same fat cats <sup>could</sup> ~~were~~ daily ~~blasted~~  
~~the~~ <sup>dump</sup> <sup>appalling</sup> ~~torrents~~ <sup>raw</sup> of <sup>raw</sup> ~~person~~ into the same  
lake?



I thought of our increasingly  
riven society and of our troubled and  
quibbling young, so many of whom were  
exploring some pretty strange byways,  
granted, but who <sup>were</sup> just as surely drawn if  
not driven there out of repulsion <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~  
~~these~~ ~~elders~~ who by their gross and turning  
joyless materialism had ~~turned~~ <sup>were turning</sup> so many  
of them away. ^



cunningly  
craftily

free

I felt a surge of resentment  
against those ~~wilful~~ men who continued  
to do what they did because there was  
money in it and they had learned that  
in our indulgent and tolerant ~~free~~ society they were likely to get ~~away~~ <sup>plenty</sup> with  
it, wilful men who <sup>sighed</sup> at the same time  
~~delighted~~ to be taunting and ~~almost~~  
scornfully daring our already challenged  
and beleaguered democracy (which at  
~~ritualistic~~ <sup>ritualistic</sup> intervals they so  
resonantly extolled) to try and stop them.  
Finally I felt that it might just be high  
time for the rest of our country, ~~young~~  
young <sup>and</sup> old, to take up ~~that~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~share~~  
share of <sup>some</sup> democracy.  
(which at <sup>ritualistic</sup> intervals they <sup>reverently</sup> ~~ever~~  
so resonantly <sup>extolled</sup>) to try and stop them.  
Finally I felt that it might just be  
high time for the rest of the country, young  
and old, to take up their share.

#6



Start new page

The next day found me <sup>back</sup> ~~back~~ once again immersed in ~~my~~ pollution ~~when~~ and suddenly I ~~abruptly~~ <sup>abruptly</sup> collided with a rash of conferences, learning belatedly that three federal pollution control conferences alone had been held on the plight of Lake Superior since Interior's 1968 Report, besides many more modest <sup>state and</sup> local gatherings.



(and largely a waste of time akin to that of harranguing, and ~~boasting~~ <sup>missionaries busily</sup> wooing

The first two of these federal conferences had been called by the then Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall and were largely ignored by the governors of the three states principally concerned -- Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan -- and one wistfully hoped that it was not because but merely coincidental that they belonged to a political party other than Mr. Udall's. Whatever the reason these meetings were consequently mostly harmless talk fest ~~erated on~~ <sup>erated on</sup> ~~viewing~~ the already converted ~~land~~ <sup>land</sup> ~~After the predictably~~ <sup>After the predictably</sup> ~~viewing~~ the ~~total~~ <sup>total</sup> ~~pollution~~ <sup>pollution</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~of the lake with~~ <sup>of the lake with</sup> ~~appropriate~~ <sup>proper</sup> ~~alarm~~ <sup>alarm</sup> ~~the frustrated conference~~ <sup>the frustrated conference</sup> ~~seriously~~ <sup>seriously</sup> adjourned and went home.

After

↑ Wisconsin



The third conference, held this past August in Duluth, had been called by Stewart Udall's successor, Secretary of Interior <sup>Walt</sup> Hickel, who after <sup>a delay of</sup> more than a year following the 1968 Report -- or "should we say 24,000,000 tons later?" -- finally in ~~January~~ February 1969 wrote General Clarke of the Army Corps of Engineers requesting him to revise Reserves' dumping permit to require disposal elsewhere. (Told me by Charles Stoddard, who headed the 1968 Report.)



brand  
one  
Despite the delay, I found Secretary  
Wickels' action encouraging, first because he took it  
at all rather than call for a <sup>as he might have</sup> new study and report;  
and further because it more or less <sup>seemed to</sup> committed the  
new <sup>national</sup> administration (if not Mr. Mitchell) on the issue;  
also because it thus <sup>officially</sup> recognized and adopted the  
1968 Report; and finally because it put the  
elusive and chameleon Army Corps <sup>of Engineers</sup> squarely on the spot. (This  
spark of encouragement was somewhat <sup>considerable</sup> damped when  
I recalled General Clarke's ~~Duluth~~ speech made <sup>nearby a</sup> months  
year and a half <sup>later</sup> in Duluth and which, indeed, made his cryptic  
criticisms there all the more <sup>unreassuring</sup> disturbing.)



A further ray of hope flickered when, in April 1970 Interior's federal water quality administration ~~concluded~~ <sup>wound up</sup> a detailed study which bluntly concluded: [ Pick up with following page ]

//



a further <sup>ray of</sup> ~~hope~~ <sup>ray of</sup> ~~hope~~ that <sup>a detailed</sup>  
~~was in~~ <sup>was in</sup> April 1970 the Interior's Federal  
Water Quality <sup>water quality</sup> administration  
concluded a study and issued a report shortly

~~concluding that~~ "The scientific ~~was~~ evidence  
clearly points to the fact that Lake Superior is  
being irreparably damaged by taconite  
tailings which are causing basic changes in  
the lake. The only question left is how these  
tailings can be disposed of harmlessly --

not whether. <sup>itself</sup> Despite the color of the  
message, the <sup>ray of</sup> ~~hope~~ <sup>lay</sup> ~~is~~ that the further  
commitment of Secretary Wickel and his administration  
and on the issue, the <sup>is revealing</sup> light it sheds on the <sup>dependability of</sup> ~~accuracy of~~

Reserve's <sup>repeated</sup> bland denials, and <sup>in the</sup>  
blunt <sup>warning</sup> it gives <sup>by</sup> a <sup>paralyzed and</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>Congress</sup>  
and the <sup>country</sup> that the <sup>disasters</sup> ~~pollution~~ <sup>must</sup> ~~stop~~  
and <sup>fact</sup>.

LARGELY

19

38  
22  
2



Despite the dolor of the above message itself the ray of hope lay in this further committal of Secretary Hichel <sup>of department</sup> and, implicitly, of his administration, and in the revealing light it sheds on the ~~pretense~~ dependability of Reser's repeated denials, and finally in the blunt warning that it gave the country and a preoccupied and largely moribund Congress that <sup>the wild</sup> pollution <sup>spill</sup> must <sup>come to a rapid</sup> stop.



~~As called by Mr. Wickel~~

Then one

One of the few <sup>really</sup> encouraging movements in this <sup>whole</sup> state's pollution ~~minut~~ occurred abruptly on August 13, 1970 when this third federal pollution conference issued a blunt order requiring Reserve Mining Company to outline a plan by December 1, 1970 for altering its <sup>present</sup> discharge ~~tactics~~ practices to meet federal and state pollution standards, a <sup>polite</sup> ~~direct~~ way of telling Reserve that the long pollution honeymoon was over.



This action ~~was~~ <sup>seemed</sup> important for several reasons: it was by far the boldest yet taken, it was unanimous, the conference had been called by Secretary Hicken, and for the first time the ~~proceedings~~ <sup>issue had taken</sup> on an unmistakably clear interstate stamp, with the testimony <sup>there</sup> of Dr. Donald Mount, a <sup>respected</sup> federal water quality scientist, that not only ~~the~~ <sup>were</sup> Reserve's tailings <sup>now</sup> invading Wisconsin's waters but endangering its residents as well.



~~Start new page~~

along the way I also

I learned that what pollution does to kill lakes and streams is a complicated ~~scientific~~ <sup>scientific</sup> story ~~involving~~ <sup>embracing</sup> all manner of involved <sup>and</sup> depressing things, but mainly ~~involves~~ <sup>implies</sup> a sharp decline in the oxygen content <sup>of the water</sup> caused by ~~the~~ a consequent decline in photosynthesis by overfertilization resulting in increased plant growth in turn resulting in a still more speedy decrease in oxygen and retarding of photosynthesis, thereby ~~accelerating~~ <sup>accelerating</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>down and around</sup> ~~downhill~~ <sup>downhill</sup> ~~rolling~~ <sup>rolling</sup> ~~snowball~~ <sup>snowball</sup> effect.

I learned too that pollution particularly stimulates the massive growth of oxygen-consuming algae which not only helps fill a lake but ~~meanwhile~~ <sup>meanwhile</sup> during the <sup>silent</sup> ~~speculation~~ <sup>speculation</sup> meanwhile makes it dreadfully repellent and unattractive, whole ~~massive~~ <sup>massive</sup> ~~clusters~~ <sup>clusters</sup> ~~islands~~ <sup>islands</sup> of the stuff often drifting <sup>near</sup> and up on beaches in great stinking islands, ~~and~~ <sup>thus</sup> accounting for the closing of all of Lake Ontario's beaches but one <sup>and</sup> ~~equally~~ <sup>equally</sup> depressing stories <sup>more and more</sup> coming from the ~~other~~ <sup>great lakes</sup> lakes.



I learned in  
other words ~~I learned~~ that  
A body of water, ~~I learned~~, was ~~much~~  
like a man or an oak or eagle in that  
it followed the same eternal life cycle  
of the plant and animal kingdoms, that is,  
birth, growth, death. What pollution  
did was simply fantastically speed  
up that cycle, thus accounting for the <sup>for example,</sup>  
almost incredible aging of Lake Erie by  
fifteen thousand years in 50 or, put ~~that~~  
~~more~~ another <sup>depressing</sup> way, by 300 years in one.



Finn

Start new page

Almost inadvertently I also learned, as I had <sup>noted before</sup> that Reservoir's ~~pollution~~ tailings were not the only pollutants going into the lake; that the combined sewage and detergent wastes of nearly 100 towns and cities <sup>were also</sup> steadily being discharged into the lake, along with the assorted ~~waste~~ <sup>chemical</sup> ~~waste~~ <sup>from</sup> more than 60 industries; <sup>that many of the boats that plied it</sup> ~~that boats were~~ dumping their <sup>bits of</sup> ~~bits of~~ <sup>stew</sup> untreated sewage and garbage to the ~~lake~~ <sup>general</sup>.

Wastes,  
mostly  
and



I learned <sup>that</sup> ~~I also gathered that~~

Bad as this additional pollution  
undeniably <sup>is</sup> (much of which is in  
the process of being stopped or curbed by  
state, provincial and local authorities) it is but  
a ~~comparatively~~ <sup>figurative</sup> drop in the bucket compared  
with Reserves; <sup>and that</sup> Geologists are in virtual  
agreement in sounding one melancholy note:

that the <sup>man</sup> Reserve pollution ~~alone~~ <sup>will</sup> not kill  
the lake but only hasten the death that ~~is~~ a  
continued Reserve pollution alone will <sup>surely</sup> make  
inevitable.

~~Put another way, Lake Superior is <sup>in danger of</sup>  
not only dying a little each day but a little faster each day,  
and if Reserves' pollution <sup>is</sup>  
isn't stopped it is doomed beyond <sup>all</sup> rescue.~~

Put another way, I learned that Lake Superior was  
not only dying a little every day but was dying  
a little faster each day, and that if Reserves'  
pollution isn't <sup>wasn't</sup> stopped its doom <sup>would soon</sup>  
be sealed beyond all <sup>hope of</sup> rescue.



but only hasten the death that the  
continued Reserve pollution alone would  
make inevitable.

From my <sup>mournful</sup> ~~probing~~ <sup>melancholy</sup> ~~and mournful~~  
ecological message I emerged: Ecologists  
were in virtual agreement that <sup>in fact</sup> the non-  
Reserve pollution alone would not kill the  
lake, the Reserve pollution alone would. In  
other words, ~~had~~ the lake was ~~slowly~~ dying  
a little each day, and if the Reserve pollution  
wasn't stopped it was doomed.

"Lake Superior is a delicate lake and  
... great caution must be exercised when  
weighing the potential danger to its ecology,"  
the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration  
has <sup>recently</sup> warned. When one recalls that in a  
mere fifty <sup>50</sup> years Lake Erie's polluters have  
just about ~~successfully~~ choked it to death by aging  
it by fifteen thousand years and <sup>then</sup> remembers  
that <sup>the</sup> Reserve <sup>crowd</sup> has been hovering at Lake Superior  
for nearly a third of that time, the <sup>pressing</sup> need for  
swift positive action seems ~~obviously~~  
tragically evident. (This and the preceding ~~two~~ <sup>several of</sup> ~~these~~  
~~two~~ paragraphs <sup>were</sup> adapted <sup>largely</sup> <sup>in part</sup> from  
Gaylord Nelson's preword to the new  
Harper & Row book, Lake Superior, already cited.)



Start new page

As I drew near the end of my <sup>big</sup> morbid deliriums one <sup>big</sup> looming fact struck me with billboard clarity, and it was this: preaching and persuasion wasn't stopping pollution, <sup>just as</sup> conferences weren't, <sup>at the same time</sup> and it suddenly swept over me that the only way men could be brought around to stopping their unholy polluting -- especially when it was also profitable -- was to be made to stop it.



our pollution crisis had shown me otherwise,

This conclusion gave me no joy, and in fact was ~~of~~ <sup>for</sup> dismaying one who hated ~~the~~ violence and force and repression, official or otherwise, which and had <sup>ing</sup> long believed that in a democracy all men would respond to education and enlightenment and could <sup>with patience</sup> placably be persuaded to <sup>embrace</sup> ~~accept~~ <sup>and follow</sup> the common weal. But <sup>there</sup> it was, and I reluctantly faced the fact that in ~~our pollution~~ <sup>that</sup> crisis more ~~was~~ <sup>might be</sup> involved than the fate of any lake, vital as that was; that additionally <sup>involved</sup> <sup>protect and</sup> <sup>well</sup> could be the <sup>grim</sup> test of whether <sup>the</sup> democracy could <sup>timely</sup> <sup>provide</sup> act to <sup>save</sup> itself.

the tools of the totalitarians, ~~and~~

the

this dream called



bedrock

From this bleak premise I groped to find what might be done, and out of my broodings several things rather clearly emerged, all based however on the one ~~basic~~ <sup>however sad,</sup> assumption, that men had to be made to abandon their obscene slobery and that <sup>indeed</sup> the fate of all of us was bound up in our ability to face up to and successfully cope with that. Among my ideas were these:

cope



mostly ambiguous, evasive and in any case

Our country's laws against pollution were ~~plainly~~ inadequate <sup>and</sup> ~~and evasive~~ and they needed either to be sharply revised or scrapped and replaced with new laws that <sup>for one thing</sup> made the punishment fit the crime <sup>and platitude</sup> rather than <sup>apologetically</sup> throwing marshmallows at our polluters.

function  
position

And, since the pollution of navigable waters ~~was~~ such as Lake Superior is a national ~~concern~~ (indeed international) concern <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ no state should be allowed to usurp that <sup>gross</sup> (witness the <sup>gross</sup> charade of the prolonged Reserve litigation <sup>with</sup> <sup>against</sup> Minnesota) Congress should <sup>swiftly</sup> step in and act.

That under any new law ~~that~~ the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should promptly be relieved of all future authority over <sup>our</sup> navigable waters and the granting of any permits (which should be carefully reviewed) and authority vested in some public agency more amenable to public control and ~~less~~ more responsive to the public welfare, such as Interior or perhaps some new agency.



important and

is ~~was~~ a clear and unambiguous provision  
formally report harmful pollution of any navigable  
waters the Department of Justice not only might  
but must seek a temporary injunction against  
the accused polluter which can be made  
permanent if after hearing (or admission by him)  
the polluter cannot refute it.



a threatened

~~dangerous~~

This is pretty strong legal ~~any~~ <sup>we</sup> medicine, conceded, but <sup>how</sup> we can ~~no~~ longer afford the luxury of letting the polluter put the burden of proof on ~~the public~~ society? Even more ~~Equally~~ hazardous is the presently indulged presumption of innocence enjoyed by <sup>the</sup> persistent polluter, which not only rewards <sup>and</sup> encourages ~~and~~ <sup>diversion and</sup> him to use all the tricks of ~~delay~~ (possibly fatal) delay but is akin to letting an attempted wife poisoner ~~stay~~ free to keep poisoning ~~until~~ the poor woman until he is proven guilty.



and mildly humorous

My work was nearly <sup>done</sup> ~~over~~ but with

~~with~~ the approach of the predicted  
autumnal electoral rains, ~~there was~~ a  
hopeful note: everyone <sup>suddenly</sup> seemed to be trying to  
clamber aboard the environmental bandwagon,  
and on ~~fact~~ <sup>delayed</sup> ~~to~~ ~~delay~~ the completion of  
this article in order to try to keep up with  
the fast-breaking developments, of which  
the following ~~are a few~~ <sup>groups</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>more</sup> significant.



9 Item: ~~How~~ Although General Clarke of the Army Corps of Engineers did not see fit to heed Secretary Hickel's <sup>1969</sup> letter to do <sup>has since</sup> something about the Reserve dumping permit, <sup>he did</sup> set up a <sup>so-called</sup> national advisory board on environmental problems, including on it, of all ~~variety~~ people, Charles A. Stoddard, who headed the ten-month study resulting in the Interior's 1968 Report which his Generalship ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>for</sup> so long so ~~completely~~ <sup>completely</sup> ignored. What <sup>might</sup> ~~will~~ come out of this ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> ~~order~~ <sup>order</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~hard~~ <sup>hard</sup> to ~~say~~ <sup>say</sup>. I suspect, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> only God and General Clarke know -- though <sup>also suspect</sup> I ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> have that order wrong...



Comment: On the surface this <sup>action</sup> looks like a lofty  
heartening conciliatory gesture but, recalling some of  
the past ambivalent actions of the General  
and his Corps, several questions occur.  
First, why does General Clarke <sup>need</sup> any  
advisory board <sup>at all</sup> when under the 1967 Army -  
Interim agreement he already had Interim  
to investigate and guide him? <sup>But</sup> <sup>in</sup>  
And ditto in view of the <sup>Interim</sup> Report? <sup>What</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>purpose</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>board</sup> <sup>created</sup>  
Or was it <sup>created</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>save</sup> <sup>face</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>help</sup> <sup>buttress</sup>  
a possibly already contemplated <sup>Corps</sup> decision  
against renewing Reserve's permit? Or is  
it simply more dreary evidence of <sup>what</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>called</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>slay</sup>  
the "slay" <sup>call</sup> <sup>another</sup> <sup>conference</sup> <sup>delay</sup> <sup>technique</sup> and  
chronic foot-dragging that has plagued  
this <sup>whole</sup> <sup>problem</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>along</sup>?

call another conference



One ~~definitely~~ hastens to add  
that conferences are all very fine, frequently  
<sup>highly informative</sup> educational and productive, and in ~~the~~  
~~accord~~ <sup>keeping</sup> with a long <sup>tradition</sup>. But my faith in  
the phenomena, <sup>has perhaps</sup> inevitably become a little  
shaken when I recall all the conferences  
that have already been held on Lake  
Superior <sup>pollution</sup> (without reducing Reservoir's  
<sup>dumping a single</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>ounce</sup>), and also recall the nine years  
likewise consumed by ~~conferences~~ <sup>proceedings</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>huddling</sup> over  
Lake Erie, <sup>and</sup> particularly when I recall that  
when the <sup>very</sup> last spoonful of scalloped  
potatoes had been served at the <sup>very</sup> last ~~supper~~  
supper <sup>at</sup> of the <sup>very</sup> last conference the red-faced  
conferees <sup>obviously</sup> discovered that the poor meanwhile  
the poor <sup>Lake Erie</sup> had quietly upped!!!

PIOUSLY



Item: In late October President Nixon appointed William Ruckelshaus, who was described by one newspaper as an "aggressive young moderate," to run the Administration's antipollution efforts (taken from an article by Robert B. Simple, Jr. in the Nov. 15, 1970 in the *Week in Review* section of the N.Y. Times), and <sup>thereafter</sup> Mr. Ruckelshaus <sup>shortly</sup> <sup>duly</sup> appeared on national television and <sup>earnestly</sup> promised to enforce the country's laws against pollution. (I heard and saw him.)

Question: But how <sup>can</sup> ~~does~~ this nicely timed appointment ~~and~~ these encouraging words possibly jibe with ~~Mr. Mitchell's~~ Attorney General Mitchell's "guidelines" of last this past July telling <sup>all</sup> his federal prosecutors to lay off prosecuting permanent polluters ~~and~~ and rather ~~to~~ let the Department of Interior take care of them.



rather wistfully  
Shortly before Thanksgiving  
Stem: ~~On~~ The N.Y. Times

~~stably~~ <sup>soon</sup> predicted that Interior Secretary Hickel would be replaced; on the evening of ~~the~~ <sup>November</sup> 24th he appeared with Mike Wallace on C.B.S.'s "Sixty Minutes" program and discussed his <sup>rather friendly</sup> status; and the <sup>very</sup> next day, November 25th President Nixon fired him and <sup>said he would be</sup> replaced ~~by~~ <sup>with</sup> Rogers Morton, an engaging and ~~best~~ amiable man whose ~~experience~~ for his new job was, at least partly, ~~gained~~ <sup>gained</sup> from serving as national chairman of the ~~Republican party~~ <sup>consequently</sup> and wooing ~~some~~ <sup>from</sup> of the ~~country's largest~~ <sup>from</sup> richest (if not ~~of the~~ <sup>the</sup> industrialists) ~~the~~ - the same Department of Interior, remember, that Mr. Mitchell says should be ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> to take care of our ~~worst~~ <sup>worst</sup> polluters.

~~Substrai: The reader can judge on that one; I'm not <sup>quite</sup> up to it.~~

B:  
(all next page)



Notoriously

by Rogers Morton, a jolly and engaging -  
looking man, surely, but whose recent experience  
for his important new job appears partly at  
least to have been gained as national chairman of the Republican party, <sup>a job that required</sup>  
the consequent wooing off for campaign funds  
of some of ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> country's richest industrialists -  
some of whom by the sheerest coincidence  
~~just~~ might <sup>possibly</sup> have been stockholders in or even the  
policy makers of some of our country's  
most distinguished corporate polluters. And  
again by the sheerest coincidence Mr. Morton is being  
appointed to head the <sup>very</sup> same Department of Interior  
that one faintly recalls Mr. Mitchell said (in ~~his~~  
those <sup>famous</sup> guidelines, remember?) should be left to take  
care of our worst polluters.

Question: <sup>For once I am the man of</sup>  
The ~~man~~ wordless.



well known for his  
actual anti-pollution ~~work~~ efforts,

*under the  
auspices of*

*making me wonder*

*of hope all but*

*almost prohibited*

Item: Out of the blue ~~on~~ the week  
before Thanksgiving Congressman Henry Reuss, long  
announced from Washington that at long last  
the Army Corps of Engineers had <sup>just</sup> started ~~to~~ <sup>refuse</sup>  
~~new~~ federal prosecutions under the old 1899 statute  
mentioned earlier. ~~My~~ <sup>My</sup> encouragement <sup>was</sup>  
against 50 <sup>defendants</sup> ~~polluters~~ who were <sup>allegedly</sup> dumping mercury  
into various rivers and lakes. ~~My~~ <sup>My</sup> glow of  
encouragement was <sup>greatly</sup> tempered when I ~~failed to find~~  
the Reserve Mining Company among the I read  
that the Corps biggest gripe seemed to be that the  
alleged pollution was being done without a permit ~~and~~  
when it was dumped <sup>just when</sup> ~~the~~ mercury <sup>had become</sup> ~~was~~ lethal ~~if~~  
the Corps, while it was about it, hadn't <sup>gone for the game</sup> ~~reversed~~ and  
the permit and prosecuted one of the country's ~~biggest~~  
champion polluters, Reserve Mining Company. When I  
remembered Mr. Mitchell's "guidelines" ~~it~~ ~~was~~ and  
the bleak fact that there had been no progress in  
the ten-year old Chicago prosecution my small  
glow <sup>of hope all but</sup> ~~almost~~ ~~prohibited~~ ~~was~~.



diversionary sop<sup>th</sup>

Question: Has the Army Corps of Engineers really had a change of heart or was this action just a sop to still the ~~the~~ mounting clamor of the anti-pollutionists?

twipt

Question: Had Am. Mitchell had a change of heart? To paraphrase an old saw, ~~wasn't this~~ <sup>also</sup> many a slip between the bringing of a <sup>criminal</sup> prosecution and the trial of ~~the case~~?

isn't



during their own terms.

Final Item: In the November elections new  
governors who had campaigned on  
anti-pollution were elected in Minnesota and  
Wisconsin, replacing incumbents of the opposite party who  
were said to have had been something less than avid in their  
anti-pollution zeal and the re-elected incumbent  
in Michigan received a bad scare.

↑  
Avid



the utility of successfully

Comment: While I have already expressed some reservations about combatting massive pollution of navigable waters by holding conferences or depending upon state action, I take a grain of comfort in speculating that the <sup>more</sup> fact of this dramatic election switch may not be entirely lost on those nimble politicians in Washington who, despite their possible deficiencies in <sup>the</sup> ~~quality~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~statesmanship~~ or whatever their private reluctance <sup>might be,</sup> are accomplished experts in the difficult feat of keeping an eye on the ballot box while <sup>at the same time</sup> keeping an ear to the ground. ~~On the whole, in fact, it might,~~ ~~in fact, be the~~ ~~most~~ ~~hopeful~~ ~~sign~~ ~~of~~ ~~all~~. Some politicians deviate into grace, and ~~for~~ ~~this~~ the recent election may <sup>silently</sup> ~~quietly~~ be one of the most hopeful <sup>new</sup> signs of all.

~~As my old friend Judge Bell once told me, "Son,~~  
~~a few~~ ~~some~~ ~~politicians~~ ~~are~~ ~~born~~ ~~to~~ ~~it~~, ~~others~~ ~~achieve~~ ~~it~~,  
~~but~~ ~~most~~ ~~deviate~~ ~~into~~ ~~grace~~



December 1st

Item: As I write this on the <sup>afternoon of the</sup> day before the deadline for Reserve to submit an alternative plan for the disposal of its tailings, as ordered <sup>on August 13th</sup> by the third federal pollution control conference <sup>held</sup> in Duluth on August 13th, the word is that Reserve has done nothing, perhaps being ~~submitting additional evidence, if any was needed,~~ ~~at the request of the conference, which is the only way to stop profitable pollution,~~ ~~to force it by force.~~ raw

sure

additional evidence, if any is needed, that the only sure way to stop raw pollution is by using raw force.



innocence of which I felt a little proud.

## Start new page

Hal and I met for a farewell go at fishing on Lake Superior on Thanksgiving Day, and as we tramped along the <sup>sandy</sup> shore to our fishing site I got him up to date on my discoveries and my thoughts on how the worst of the pollution might be stopped. I dwelt at length on my ideas for new legislation, lingering particularly over my wife-poisoning analogy to do away with the presumption. "In fact I'm writing an article on it," I concluded. "Maybe it will help a little."

"Probably <sup>about</sup> all you'll <sup>probably</sup> accomplish is to start a run on Reserve Mining Company stock," Hal said, shaking his head.

"Don't be cynical," I said.



~~Stokely~~ ~~himself~~

"In my past that state," he said.

"Look, people ~~up~~ who wouldn't throw ~~the~~  
a ~~cap~~ of a pop bottle out a car window will fight  
claw each other to ~~try~~ <sup>buy</sup> stock in the <sup>best</sup> companies  
of some of our most <sup>earnest</sup> <sup>best</sup> <sup>unquestioned</sup> polluters.  
He rubbed his thumb <sup>the</sup> and forefinger <sup>rapidly</sup> together.  
"Dividends are <sup>one of</sup> <sup>the</sup> greatest little <sup>salvers</sup> <sup>of</sup>  
of <sup>a</sup> troubled <sup>conscience</sup> <sup>in</sup> the world in the land." <sup>SALVERS</sup>

"So you blame <sup>only</sup> <sup>our</sup> the corporations, then?"

I said.

"Not entirely, <sup>heaven</sup> <sup>knows</sup>, but they <sup>do</sup> make it <sup>very</sup>  
definitely tougher to stop <sup>the</sup> <sup>worst</sup> pollution."  
Don't you see?  
No one <sup>can</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>blamed</sup> <sup>alone</sup>.

"In what way?"

"Because they divide guilt and  
impersonalize slobery. How else <sup>can</sup> <sup>you</sup>  
think some of these guys <sup>can</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>their</sup>  
mirrors shame in the morning?"



→ Municipalities suffer <sup>much</sup> from the same  
division and dilution of responsibility and guilt.

"But <sup>our big</sup> corporations aren't the only  
polluters," I said.

"You're so right, which makes the  
outlook all the more bleak. Everybody is  
against pollution -- except when it costs  
them a dime. Why, even the town you were  
born in is polluting the lake?"

"All too true," I confessed. "~~How~~ you  
don't see much hope."

"And what are you doing about it?"  
he demanded.

"Nothing," I <sup>again</sup> confessed, hanging my  
head. Then: "Do I take it, Hal, <sup>that</sup> you don't see  
much hope?"



Pursuing

"Then you don't see ~~much hope~~ ~~in~~ ~~it~~ ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~do~~ ~~you~~?"

"Damn <sup>charm.</sup> <sup>Very little,</sup> <sup>Lord,</sup> <sup>taking your poison analogy,</sup> if a man <sup>finally</sup> succeeded in <sup>poisoning</sup> his wife by feeding her poison every day we call it <sup>first-degree</sup> murder and clap him in the hoosegow."

"Yes?"

"But when ~~Person~~ <sup>a private, profit</sup> <sup>corporation</sup> does the same thing with the world's <sup>rich</sup> <sup>boobies</sup> like we reward it not only by giving it a competitive advantage over its non-polluting rivals but a yearly bonus of -- what's that figure you <sup>just</sup> gave me?"

"Only three million three hundred thousand ~~3,300,000~~ dollars," I said.

"Hm ..." Hal mused, being one of those

TABS →

mathematical geniuses who can add bar tabs in their heads. "That comes out roughly to ten grand a day. Well, they could afford to pay the maximum ~~fine~~ <sup>of \$2500</sup> every <sup>about</sup> day under that old 1899 act <sup>just</sup> <sup>told</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>about</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>still</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>net</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>meat</sup> <sup>\$7500</sup> <sup>seventy-five</sup> <sup>hundred</sup> <sup>dollars</sup> <sup>each</sup> <sup>day</sup>." And you say this has been going

each day.

"Then you don't think ~~we'll~~ ~~make~~ ~~it~~ ~~on~~ ~~for~~ ~~how~~ ~~many~~ ~~years~~?"

"Since 1956."



"Hm..." Hal again mused, again playing at computer. "That comes to over 24,000,000 tons a year."

"I'm afraid so," I said.

"And <sup>also</sup> means that Reserve has already dumped over one-fifth of a billion tons of tailings into the lake. That must make them the all-time heavyweight champion polluter of the world."

on a <sup>being</sup> national scale "I'm afraid so," I repeated. "Although it is pushed by some of our best-known companies, so far as I can learn ~~the~~ Reserve Mining Company holds the dubious distinction of being the undisputed world champion polluter from a single source."

"And it still goes on?"



I nodded. The sun had <sup>partly</sup> come out and I looked far  
out across the <sup>fast</sup> glitter and heave of ~~the~~ our  
beautiful lake. "Then you don't <sup>really</sup> think we'll  
make it?" I said.

"I wouldn't bet my favorite fly  
rod on it. In my book I'm <sup>very much</sup> afraid that if we  
don't <sup>first</sup> bomb or -- ah -- procreate ourselves to  
oblivion we'll <sup>probably</sup> pollute ourselves there."

I thought of Stuart Hampshire's speculation  
that man was an ~~passing~~ unstable ~~and~~ passing  
accident of evolution. "Happy Thanksgiving, Hal," I  
said. "Let's go fishing." <sup>By all means</sup>  
"Yes, Hal said. "Let's go fishing while  
yet we ~~may~~ there's time."



Written by:  
John D. Walker  
Saginaw, Michigan

LAKE SUPERIOR -- IS IT SICK OR BEING SLANDERED?

By

Robert Traver

OK  
Same →

"The world's biggest beaver pond," a poetic old fishing pal  
 once <sup>proudly</sup> described Lake Superior to me as we <sup>an</sup> ~~one day~~ <sup>fished</sup> ~~fished~~ <sup>while fishing</sup> along  
 a remote stretch of rocky <sup>its</sup> shore~~line~~. Hal was referring, as he  
 glowingly <sup>explained,</sup> proceeded to explain to the purity and spring-like  
 coldness of its water and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~diverse~~ and marvelous ~~sports~~  
 fishing the lovely lake had so long <sup>given</sup> ~~provided~~ us.

NO

Only place I've  
 still been in in  
 the northern part of the lake.



"The world's biggest beaver pond,"  
an old fishing pal once described Lake Superior  
to me as we fly-fished for coasters along  
one of the many submerged rock beds that line  
its rugged shore. Coasters, for those who do not  
know, are brook trout that spend most of their lives  
in the big lake and <sup>which</sup> often reach awesome size.

Hal was referring, as he glowingly  
explained, not only to the lake's exciting sport  
fishing but to the equally exciting fact that in  
its cold gin-clear the fisherman often as not  
knew when to strike simply by seeing the fish  
<sup>approach and take</sup> his deep-sunken fly as by feeling it -  
just as ~~one~~ <sup>he</sup> might <sup>sometimes</sup> do in <sup>certain</sup> ~~the~~ spring-fed  
beaver dams.



"'World's biggest beaver pond' is good, Hal," I recall saying at the time, or something equally deathless. "And thank heaven it's so far from big cities and swarms of people it should stay that way a long time."



Hal's rechristening of Lake Superior had taken place back maybe ten years ago, and since then we have fished the lake together many times. This past summer we again met to fish, this time at the mouth of one of our favorite trout streams and the big lake -- always a likely spot --

The lake, <sup>this day</sup> indeed looked ~~like~~ as calm as a vast beaver pond, with the gulls lazily wheeling and tacking, a distant ore boat with its thin smoke plume looking like a floating isle, and occasionally a big rising fishing breaking the surface as it simultaneously boosted our pulses.



"You know something, pal," Hal said, gazing up along the rocky shoreline, "I've just dreamed up a new name for the world's biggest beaver pond."

"What's that, Hal?" I politely inquired, busily rigging up.

"The world's biggest outhouse," he replied.

Hal, a bit of a cynic, often grew rabid over the ~~so~~ stalwart armies of litter bugs and beer-can heavers abroad in the land, so I braced myself for his latest blast. "How come?" I said. "What's happened to the world's biggest beaver pond?"

"I'm afraid it's dying," he dolefully replied. "Just another victim of our national lust for big payrolls, big production, big profits and big prosperity at any price."

"While I love your Agnewian alliteration," I said, "just what in hell are you driving at?"

"Pollution," Hal went on, wagging his head. "Pretty soon I guess we can say about Lake Superior what's so long been said about Lake Erie: people unlucky enough to fall into the place don't so much drown as rot."

5 42



"Maybe if it gets too bad they could walk ashore," I suggested.

"The only place Lake Erie still looks is in the crossword puzzle." <sup>Lake Erie still looks is in</sup> ~~Lake Erie still looks is in~~ "Here it's big."

"Suppose you climb down off your soap box and tell me what's happening to our old lake." I stared out at the distant horizon. "Still looks pretty as ever to me."



wave-  
water - hewn

disgusted

~~water~~

Hal gave me a ~~withering~~ look. "Sit down," he commanded,

ordered,

motioning me to join him on a handy rock. "Let me tell you just

a few

~~some~~ of the things that have been happening to <sup>the</sup> former world's

champion

6 7

biggest beaver pond."

^



*proceeded to give me an*  
~~So Hal told me, giving me an alarming~~ *(Ugh)* earful, in fact, first  
*thousands of*  
about the 67,000 tons of taconite tailings--a sort of pulverized  
sandy waste made from the separation of iron ore from its host  
rock--that are daily being ~~discharged~~ *dumped* into Lake Superior by the  
Reserve Mining Company *just* a few miles north of Duluth. He ~~explained~~ *revealed*  
~~that powerful U. S. Steel Company was the principal owners of~~  
~~Reserve Mining and~~ *said* that this massive pollution was nothing new  
but had been going on for ~~over 15~~ *years* ~~with no sign of abatement.~~ *ready for without any*  
"In fact," he went on, "~~many alarmed~~ *cc* conservationists are predicting  
that if it isn't stopped soon *and damned* Lake Superior will join Lake Erie as  
another doomed inland sea."

"Well, what do you know?" I said, shaking my head. "Where'd  
you get all the dope?"

"Out of the same newspaper you take--only I occasionally read  
more than the weather report for tomorrow's fishing."

*It occasionally*  
"If I'm not too pooped I sometimes ~~also~~ *work* the crossword,"

I said, fighting back. "Tell me more."



Hal told me how the Reserve Mining Company was presently engaged in litigation with Minnesota's pollution control officials, challenging <sup>that</sup> the state's anti-pollution regulations as "unreasonably restrictive" and further claiming that the tailings it admittedly <sup>are tons of</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ and stationary, only slightly discoloring the water but posing no real threat to marine life or to

public health. <sup>The lead has been dragging along for months with no end in sight.</sup> "Hal <sup>he</sup> concluded." <sup>Reserve is</sup> "Maybe ~~they're~~ right," I suggested. "After all, Hal, there's no federal law <sup>making all</sup> declaring big corporations invariably <sup>wrong.</sup>"

"Except that the pollution ~~is~~ merrily goes on," Hal continued gloomily, "at the rate of ~~24~~ <sup>500</sup> million <sup>tons</sup> annually—I ~~just~~ <sup>just</sup> said <sup>chem,</sup> ~~tons,~~ <sup>concrete,</sup> not pounds—and despite the mounting alarm of Wisconsin and Michigan conservation people, who claim that the Minnesota pollution is <sup>massive</sup> spreading <sup>unmistakably</sup> and already harmfully affecting their areas of the lake."

"But why doesn't somebody stop it?" I said. "The state or the government or somebody?"

"That's one of the big problems," Hal went on sadly. "Nobody really seems to know who has the authority to question the thing or put a stop to it. ~~For a long time the Federal Water Quality Control Administration kept out of the act in the belief that the pollution affected~~

*a wholly-owned subsidiary of two Ohio corporations, American and Republic Steel,*

*Stoddard caught*



"It doesn't seem believable."

"The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers appears to claim exclusive authority over all discharges into the ~~the~~ lake," Hal went on. "Indeed it was that outfit that gave the mining company its federal permit to dump in the first place and which must soon pass on its revocation or renewal."

"Maybe the Army people will have the guts to stem the tide," I said hopefully.



"maybe," Hal gloomily agreed. "But  
meanwhile I suggest you glance occasionally at  
your newspaper ~~so~~ so you'll know what's  
happening to our lake in case they don't."

"Will do," I said, rising and  
wrestling myself into my waders. "Maybe  
things aren't as bad as you think."

Hal <sup>what and</sup> grunted and <sup>squinted</sup> ~~looked~~ up at the  
sky. "Let's go fishing," he said, and so we  
did.



BEAGLING

Concerned and more than a little  
disturbed by what Hal had told me, I began  
the very next day to ~~take~~ <sup>begin looking</sup> into what was happening  
to the beautiful lake beside which I had  
virtually been born and raised and in which  
both of us had so often happily fished. Not  
only did I begin reading the local paper  
but ~~out-of-town~~ <sup>I began beagling</sup> papers as well, also ~~to~~  
visiting the local library and <sup>with</sup> writing some  
of the people whose <sup>pollution</sup> articles I read. I had been  
~~wrong when I'd told Hal that maybe things~~  
~~weren't as bad as he thought; he hadn't told~~  
~~me that the half was; things were far worse~~  
~~than he'd pictured them.~~



had as he'd pictured them but far worse,

One thing clearly emerged: I had been dead wrong when I'd told Hal that maybe things weren't as bad as he thought. The sad truth, I discovered, was that he hadn't told me the ~~the~~ half of it; things were not only as ~~bad~~ but far worse than he'd pictured them.



First I learned -- or rather re-learned  
from my grade-school days -- that Lake Superior  
was the biggest body of fresh water in the world,  
being fed not only by scores of remote northern  
~~country~~ bush country rivers and streams in  
bordering Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan but  
also from the very heartland of sub-arctic Canada  
by such fabled streams as the Michigan <sup>again</sup> and  
many others. And for the first time I learned that  
Superior was <sup>not only</sup> the ~~biggest~~ lake in the ~~Great Lakes~~ ~~chain~~ ~~that~~ ~~its~~  
whole Great Lakes chain, <sup>but for the first time I learned that its</sup> ~~the~~ ~~five~~ ~~lakes~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~chain~~  
hold one-fifth of all the fresh water <sup>left</sup> on earth.  
I learned that Lake Superior was indeed unique, the  
crown jewel, the aristocrat, the very queen of all  
inland seas... (The "one-fifth" figure above  
comes from <sup>p. 71 of</sup> Our Polluted World by <sup>naturalist</sup> John Perry, M. Y.  
1967.)



Digging ~~def~~ deeper

about ~~I also~~ learned that Lake Superior has more than 2500 miles of coastline, is fed by more than 200 streams and rivers, is by far the deepest of the Great Lakes, and covers an area as broad as that of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts combined -- which themselves make up a good chunk of New England. (The foregoing is adapted from Senator Gaylord Nelson's foreword to The Lake Superior, a new Harper & Row photo book by Charles Steinacker.)



Digging <sup>still</sup> deeper I learned that not only  
had the massive Reserve Mining Company massive  
discharge of tailings been going on steadily since  
1956 but that in recent years Reserve was  
increasing the daily dose. In swift succession  
I learned the following:



brand new

17

its tailings

That at the original 1947 hearing before the Minnesota conservation commission on the question of the state granting Reserve a permit to ~~allow any~~ discharge into the lake at all Reserve had assured the state, and produced ~~expert~~ testimony to show that its tailings would not be visible more than a mile from shore; that the quantity of tailings would be insignificant compared with the natural sediments deposited by Minnesota's streams <sup>and</sup> that ~~not~~ soluble materials or chemicals would accompany ~~any~~ <sup>its</sup> discharge.

Yet a 1968 study made by <sup>the</sup> Department of Interior found that polluted "green water" extended some 18 miles south of the plant and that Reserve's tailings were being deposited in variable densities over a much wider area and, further, that Reserve's daily discharge of tailings just about equally equalled the yearly sedimentary deposit made by all of Minnesota's streams, that ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> roughly 365 times greater ~~and~~ <sup>while</sup> a recent study by the National Water Quality Laboratory found that Reserve was <sup>daily</sup> adding about 160,000 pounds of dissolved solids with its 67,000 tons <sup>of</sup> discharge. And Reserve ~~has~~ <sup>employees</sup> since admitted that <sup>the</sup> ~~company~~ <sup>has</sup> periodically dumped substantial quantities of calcium chloride and sulphuric acid, both harmful. In other words Reserve ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> wrong all on all counts <sup>back</sup> in 1947 <sup>and</sup> yet to this ~~very~~ day ~~with~~ <sup>not</sup> it <sup>denies</sup> that its discharges are harmful.

And its ~~tailings~~ "spurts" ~~very~~ <sup>apparently</sup>

in any discharge

4A



by the National Water Quality  
Laboratory

Thus as recently as May 1969  
~~At the~~ ~~first~~ Reserves' president Edward  
Furness <sup>on Lake Superior</sup> ~~safely~~ told the first Federal Enforcement  
Conference that his company's tailings are "inert,  
inorganic, insoluble in Lake Superior, and  
biologically inactive"; all this despite Interior's 1968  
Report and <sup>in</sup> number of subsequent studies to the contrary  
and <sup>also</sup> in the face ~~also~~ of a recent finding that Reserves'  
tailings are biologically active in harmful concentrations  
of about one milligram per liter of water over a  
wide area of the lake.

(The three preceding paragraphs are adapted mostly  
from the statement prepared by the Northern  
Environmental Council (C.H. Stoddard) and presented  
before the third session of Lake Superior Pollution  
Control Enforcement Conference <sup>held</sup> at Duluth in August  
1970.)

18  
5



Interior's 1968 so-called "Stoddard Report" (after the man who headed it, Charles H. Stoddard) was the result of ten months of study by five agencies of Interior. Analyzing the effect of the tailings on aquatic life were three of these agencies: Federal Water Control Administration, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. The Geological Survey analyzed the siltation; and the Bureau of Mines analyzed the <sup>chemical contents</sup> of the waste and its wastes and studied alternative ways of disposing of it. (Adapted from p. 2 of Mecca's statement before the <sup>some</sup> FWPCA Conference held in Duluth in August 1970.)

1968 While I scarcely waded through the whole Report (the scientific findings <sup>alone</sup> ran to several hundred pages and the summary to 36 pages) from what I did read several things came through loud and clear:

19  
B  
~~B1~~



My spirits <sup>both</sup> lifted <sup>and sagged</sup> <sup>(lifted that someone</sup>  
 a resume of the Department of Interior's 1968 <sup>finally</sup>  
 "Stoddard" Report, already referred to. While I <sup>scarcely</sup> ~~did not~~  
 waded through the whole thing <sup>all</sup> (the study  
 consumed ten months, <sup>and contains several</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>in it;</sup>  
~~in which~~ <sup>five</sup> ~~Departments~~ <sup>Interior</sup> agencies took part, and  
 ran to several hundred pages of scientific  
 findings <sup>besides not to mention</sup> and a 36-page summary) from what I did  
 read ~~it~~ clearly appears, that according to the Report,  
 that: (1) "Pollution is occurring" in Lake Superior  
 from Reserve's dumping of ~~tailings~~ <sup>tailings</sup>;

just

somebody here something argued at what they found

9  
 "Pollution is occurring" in Lake Superior  
 from Reserve's dumping; the <sup>Report</sup> ~~turbid~~ "green water"  
 turbidity <sup>presently</sup> extending miles south of Silver Bay is caused by  
 suspended waste particles from Reserve's <sup>effluent</sup>  
 discharges; a substantial reduction in bottom fish food  
 organisms were found, attributable to <sup>Reserve</sup> ~~the~~ tailings; ~~both~~  
 federal and state water standards were <sup>seriously</sup> being violated;  
 and, finally, Reserve was ~~not~~ violating its Minnesota permit  
 for the discharge of tailings; and, finally, more and more  
 rapidly the lake was becoming eutrophic. (EUTROPHIC)

That last word threw me until my  
 dictionary told me it meant "Designating a  
 body of water in which the increase of mineral and  
 organic nutrients has reduced the dissolved  
 oxygen, producing an environment that favors  
 plant over animal life." "Eutrophic body of  
 water is it? And how ~~did I ever~~ <sup>did I ever</sup> ~~thought~~ <sup>thought</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> ~~described~~ <sup>described</sup>"

20  
 10



(noH)  
HOOK IN  
WTH  
PREceding  
(LIVIN') →

As my <sup>old</sup> friend Jug Cooney might have said: "Eutrophic  
body of water, is it? An' me niver dreamin' I'd  
~~ever~~ be lucky enough to <sup>be livin'</sup> ~~live~~ beside won."  
(The dictionary quote is from the new Heritage)

that some  
day

21  
8  
C1







~~Q~~

Spirits climbed a few <sup>more</sup> matches when I <sup>then</sup>

~~I was further heartened to learned~~  
that <sup>the</sup> five Michigan <sup>low-grade</sup> iron ore properties producing  
similar wastes were <sup>disposing</sup> ~~being~~ disposed of inland and  
while the ~~mines~~ still remained solvent and

competitive, especially since Reserve was ~~located~~  
~~over~~ that the gigantic Erie Mining ~~Co.~~

Company, operating virtually next door to Reserve  
on <sup>the</sup> Mesabi Range and producing identical wastes,  
also disposed of them inland, as <sup>did</sup> ~~was~~ the new

U.S. Steel <sup>main</sup> property in the same <sup>general</sup> area, and that both  
the Stoddard Report and later studies ~~showed~~  
that Reserve could ~~not~~ ~~and~~ could ~~not~~

physically and economically do the <sup>same</sup> ~~thing~~ <sup>thing</sup> despite

Reserve's repeated claims that such <sup>alternative</sup> disposal would  
be too <sup>costly</sup> and force a total ~~of~~ ~~Minnesota~~ shut down

of its ~~of these~~ Minnesota holdings'

23  
10

~~CP 3~~



old federal law, the  
Then my Spirits rose a little <sup>farther</sup> when I ran  
into a reference to an 1899 ~~federal law~~ River and  
Harbors Act, <sup>partly</sup> forbidding all unauthorized dumping  
into "navigable waters", imposing stiff ~~criminal~~  
penalties, and <sup>empowering</sup> ~~authorizing~~ the U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers to act as guardian of the "character  
and quality" of all discharges into such waters and  
~~lands~~ <sup>giving the Corps</sup> broad <sup>authority</sup> ~~authority~~ <sup>over all dumping</sup> ~~and the~~ <sup>(granting of)</sup>  
and <sup>heads</sup> ~~operating~~ <sup>authorities</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>grant</sup> ~~permits~~ <sup>therefore.</sup>  
(See 33 U.S. Code Annotated, Sec. 407)

Spirits soared when I read a hard-  
hitting piece in the August Chicago magazine ~~etc~~  
about ~~the~~ Lake Michigan's <sup>own throes</sup> agonies with pollution, telling how  
that Jack Schmetterer, <sup>not a guy</sup> Assistant U.S. Attorney in Chicago,  
finally despairing of what he <sup>they</sup> called ~~the~~ "paper-  
toothed <sup>virtually unenforceable</sup> recent water-pollution legislation", <sup>passed by Congress</sup> had dug  
up <sup>now</sup> ~~these~~ <sup>1899</sup> ~~old~~ law and <sup>under it</sup> was prosecuting U.S. Steel  
and <sup>one of its</sup> plant managers ~~under it~~ in what could be  
a historic and far-reaching <sup>major law</sup> (as far as Lake Superior?)  
decision. For a spell I wondered why Resor <sup>wasn't</sup> ~~could not~~  
also be <sup>also being</sup> prosecuted under <sup>old law</sup> this same ~~act~~ until I remembered  
the permit that it had <sup>cannot get a</sup> a permit to dump not only from  
Minnesota but also <sup>at all</sup> from <sup>the territory of</sup> that ~~guardian of~~ ~~all~~  
navigable waters, <sup>than</sup> the none other <sup>the</sup> the U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers...

no →  
paran







dumping

Spirits ~~plunged~~ <sup>plunged</sup> ~~soared~~ farther when, digging into the background of this whole permit business, I discovered that the first permit to Reserve had been routinely issued back in 1948 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (under other provisions of the same ~~old~~ 1899 law) with but one condition - that it not obstruct navigation! (This, <sup>seemed tantamount</sup> ~~was like~~ telling the jolly polluter to pollute away all he wanted so long as it would still float a boat...)



~~Spirits sagged when, digging deeper, I discovered that in 1948 the <sup>the same about</sup> ~~same~~ Army Corps of Engineers had routinely issued its first permit to Reserve, to dump its tailings into the lake with <sup>but only</sup> ~~the sole~~ condition -- brace yourselves -- that it not obstruct navigation. <sup>It</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>seemed</sup> a droll test <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ of pollution for a guardian against <sup>rather</sup> ~~some~~ to apply, <sup>public</sup> ~~not~~ unlike telling the <sup>polluter,</sup> ~~polluter,~~ <sup>Business,</sup> ~~Business,~~ <sup>away</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>pollute,</sup> ~~pollute,~~ <sup>so long as</sup> ~~so long as~~ it will still float a boat.~~

<sup>still</sup> Spirits sank <sup>at the request of Reserve</sup> ~~further~~ further when I learned that this permit was renewed in 1950 and again in 1960, without hearings, <sup>at the request of Reserve,</sup> ~~the latter permit made issue,~~ <sup>being</sup> ~~made to expire~~ December 31, 1970.

<sup>question</sup> Spirits hit ~~rock~~ <sup>rock</sup> bottom when I learned that upon Reserve objecting to any time limit at all the Army Corps <sup>without question</sup> ~~obediently~~ removed its deadline and extended the permit indefinitely -- all of which moved me to some melancholy speculations about the frightening <sup>which go hand in hand</sup> ~~relationship~~ <sup>between</sup> the military <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>industry,</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> about which <sup>good old</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~warned~~ <sup>us</sup> ~~so~~ <sup>long</sup> ~~ago.~~ <sup>ago.</sup> In fact at this point I developed a strong intuition that I was learning more about that than about the chances ~~that~~

4-12-27



of the <sup>W.S.</sup> Army Corps <sup>of Engineers</sup> helping save Lake Superior.

This ~~intention~~ <sup>was not measurably</sup> weakened when I <sup>learned that</sup> ~~heard~~ only this past August that the top head of the whole Army Corps, Gen. Frederick L. Clarke, <sup>of which</sup> ~~had spoken~~ <sup>officially speaking</sup> that month to a concerned conservation audience in Duluth, ~~had~~ delivered himself as follows <sup>had</sup> told it that in considering the question of the removal of Reserve's permit to continue dumping 67,000 tons of tailings into Lake Superior <sup>each day</sup> his Corps was trying to weigh "the economic aspects of the Reserve Mining Company operation against the deleterious effects that are alleged with respect to the lake." He concluded: "I don't think we are going to come out with a permit that forces Reserve to shut down."

28  
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Despite its <sup>the</sup> florid wooliness, I found this statement particularly <sup>astounding</sup> disheartening, coming as it did from the man heading the the sole agency named under the 1899 act to protect our navigable waters. Particularly dismaying did I find his use of the word "alleged" in speaking of the harmful effects of Reserve's pollution, especially in the face of the ephemerical 1968 report of Interim -- made <sup>remember,</sup> pursuant to the 1967 agreement with his own Army -- categorically finding widespread pollution by Reserve.

That wasn't all. If by the ambiguous concluding phrase "shutting down Reserve" the General meant shutting down on its pollution, he should, under both the Army-Interim agreement and the ensuing <sup>1968</sup> Report made especially to guide him. If instead he meant that the only alternative to continued <sup>pollution</sup> is that Reserve would have to shut down its entire Minnesota operation he was wrong, as the same 1968 Report <sup>should</sup> plainly <sup>have</sup> told him -- not to mention ~~any~~ subsequent studies, the Michigan <sup>low-grade</sup> mining experience and that of Reserve's own Minnesota competitors. (When, about then, I ~~discovered~~ learned that Reserve from the U.S. Bureau of Mineral figures, included in the 1968 Report, that Reserve was profiting an additional \$3,300,000 each year by continuing its massive pollution, my enchantment became boundless.)



That ~~discussed~~  
~~that~~ I was not alone in my growing  
misgivings over the role of the Army Corps of  
Engineers in this whole pollution mess  
I ~~discovered~~ when I read an account of a recent spirited  
↑ editorial in a Superior, Wisconsin trade  
publication, the Cooperative Builder, paying its  
respects to that guardian of the ~~sanctity~~ of our  
navigable waters.

"Some time back," it abruptly  
erupted, "we asked editorially whether the Army



~~Start~~

COOPERATIVE  
OUTLOOK

~~That I was not alone in the Army Corps side~~  
~~when I read in a paper, Wisconsin, a report of~~  
~~which stated in a paper, Wisconsin, a publication, the~~  
~~which stated in a paper, Wisconsin, a publication, the~~  
~~back we asked editorially whether the Army~~  
~~Corps of Engineers owned America. We had~~  
~~come to wonder after studying volumes of~~  
~~material on how (the Corps) are 'rearranging~~  
~~America's natural waterways, regardless of~~  
~~the devastating effects of their beaverings on~~  
~~the ecology of America, a land which used~~  
~~to be called beautiful.~~

START →

"Somewhere on Earth or in the heavens,  
 the blast continued," a body can be found  
 that can successfully control the Army Corps  
 of Engineers.... It is a pressure group so  
 powerful that it has won victories over strong  
 presidents such as Roosevelt and Truman and  
 over the Hoover Commission, who all tried to clip its  
 wings and failed. According to Gen. Clarke, however  
 the (Reserve) case goes, the final word will rest  
 with the all-powerful Army Corps of Engineers."  
 I think I'll subscribe.

31  
16th



swiftly  
chagrined  
delighted  
to find that Reserve had understanding  
friends other than in the military. This ~~became~~ became  
evident when the 1968 Report came ~~public~~ public  
in mid-January 1969. Prior to that Reserve  
had had nothing but praise for the study in progress,  
assuring <sup>in fact</sup> using it in fact to <sup>mollify</sup> mollify the mounting <sup>number of its critics</sup> number of its critics  
of public criticisms by assuring complainants <sup>that it would</sup> confirm Reserve's own tests showing no harmful effects.  
When <sup>the adverse Report</sup> ~~it~~ came out, <sup>however,</sup> Reserve officials promptly joined in a  
chorus of criticism <sup>as (might be expected)</sup> as (might be expected).

Less expected, at least by me, was that on the  
same day the ~~adverse~~ Report came out the Congressman from  
Reserve's own district, John A. Blatnik (whom I'd long known  
of as a <sup>monotonously</sup> liberal politician but had never <sup>before</sup> suspected of being a  
part-time ecologist) branded the report as "completely  
false."

32 16.

(Eye) - I.



despite his ~~position~~ <sup>strategic</sup>

loyal and

Reserve

no less,

Another, nicely placed ~~loyal~~ <sup>also</sup> ~~fan~~ <sup>executive</sup> was John Badalich, ~~now other than the~~ director of Minnesota's own Pollution Control Agency, who ~~publicly~~ stated that the report "contained errors," which he neglected to specify. (Mr. Badalich may have since seen the light; this ~~thing is breaking~~ <sup>fact that</sup> late reports <sup>even</sup> indicate that he is ~~now~~ <sup>actively</sup> pressing his own state's <sup>likely</sup> pollution case against Reserve.)

Then

~~Finally, beyond a state senator or two, and besides some lesser fry, Reserve's biggest prize was doubtless Max Edwards, former assistant secretary of Interior during the period its Report was in preparation, who also <sup>publicly</sup> stated that the Report "contained errors" (which he also did not specify), a <sup>penetration</sup> statement that <sup>at least so far</sup> ~~is~~ convinced a grateful Reserve <sup>ministry</sup> that ~~it~~ they have since hired him as their Washington ~~loyal~~ counsel.~~



FURTHER

Gathering himself, Mr. Edwards told the world that  
~~pro-Reserve~~  
Some further critical noises emanated  
from a state senator, <sup>or two,</sup> besides some lesser fry,  
but perhaps Reserve's biggest <sup>anti-Report</sup> prize was  
Max Edwards, assistant secretary of Interior  
under Stewart Udall while the Report was in  
<sup>gathered himself and said</sup> the words <sup>also</sup> <sup>reflected to</sup> <sup>and so utterly convincing,</sup> <sup>and such utter conviction,</sup> called the report "contained errors  
which he ~~did not~~ specify. His statement was found  
to be ~~one~~ of such profundity, such soaring <sup>and so utterly convincing,</sup> <sup>and such utter conviction,</sup>  
eloquence, ~~that~~ such utter conviction, <sup>and so utterly convincing,</sup> <sup>and such utter conviction,</sup> at least by  
Reserve, that he was promptly made Reserve's  
Washington counsel. (This and the 3 preceding paragraphs  
are adapted from Grant Merritt's hard-hitting article  
on the ~~North~~ <sup>going</sup> ~~North~~ in the March 1970 Twin Cities.  
Merritt, a <sup>going</sup> Minneapolis lawyer and descendant of  
the old Merritt ~~and~~ mining family, is <sup>currently</sup> chairman  
of Mecca's Lake Superior branch, and I am  
in touch with him.)

34

18 K