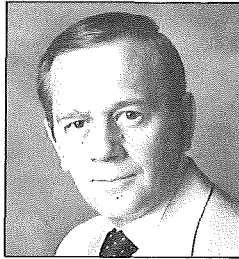


Neil Young

M.P.

**Constituency Office:**

128 Main Street, Toronto 694-0685

Ottawa Office:

House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6

No postage required for the Ottawa Office.

August 30, 1982.

RECEIVED AUG 30 1982

Dear Friend:

In continuing my investigation into Lake Ontario/Niagara River toxic chemical pollution, I have uncovered some very disturbing facts.

You will recall that the homes surrounding the Love Canal were evacuated and the neighbourhood declared a disaster area by U.S. President Carter in the late 1970's. However, in July this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a study they had conducted on the Love Canal neighbourhood, reaching the conclusion that these homes are perfectly safe for human habitation.

While the EPA did not release to the public the complete Love Canal report, I was able to obtain part of the unreleased report that contained the comments of 11 highly respected U.S. scientists who were asked to review the EPA Love Canal study and provide their opinions as to the advisability of re-populating the neighbourhood. Nine of the 11 scientists report serious reservations about the safety of the neighbourhood, leading me to believe the EPA is trying to suppress the conclusions of the scientists while reaching a conclusion exactly the opposite of the majority of the scientists - in short, a cover-up. The continued seepage of deadly chemicals from the Love Canal waste dump into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario makes this a very serious problem for Canadians whose source of drinking water is Lake Ontario.

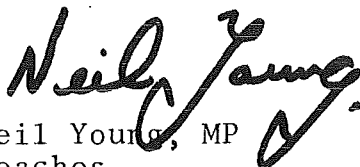
At press conferences in Toronto and Ottawa, New York State Environment Minister Maurice Hinchey and I charged the EPA with involvement in a cover-up. My charges have resulted in investigations of the EPA Love Canal report in both New York State and Canada.

.../2

As chairman of the NDP Environment Task Force, I signed an international agreement with New York State Environment Minister Maurice Hinchey for the clean-up and future protection of Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. I've enclosed a copy of the agreement for your information. In addition, I've enclosed a package of press clippings concerning the Love Canal. If you would like further information, please write to me at the House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6.

I will continue to work on these critical matters and will keep you informed as developments occur.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Neil Young". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "N" and a long, trailing "Y".

Neil Young, MP
Beaches
Chairman
NDP Environment Task Force.

ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

CLIPPING PACKAGE OF THE NDP ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

SUBJECT: NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMEN VISIT CANADA AND RELEASE
OF US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY INTERAGENCY
REVIEW OF THE LOVE CANAL REPORT

JULY 23 and 24, 1982

TORONTO AND OTTAWA

NOTE: This kit includes a copy of the Agreement that was signed by the
Assemblymen and the Members of Parliament.

Globe & Mail
July 23/82

Cover-up accusation made against U.S.

The head of New York State's toxic waste subcommittee has accused the U.S. Government of a cover-up on the seriousness of toxic chemical pollution in the Love Canal neighborhood of Niagara Falls, N.Y. Joseph Pillittere told a meeting of Canadian and U.S. politicians in Toronto yesterday information had been suppressed "to prevent the federal Government having to come into New York State and clean up the mess." James Fulton, New Democratic Party MP for Skeena, said a U.S. reluctance to clean out dumps along the Niagara River means poisons like dioxin, the deadliest man-made chemical, will continue to seep into Lake Ontario. The politicians are members of an ad hoc group calling for an international task force on Niagara frontier pollution. The group of MPs, Ontario MPPs and New York State assemblymen will sign an agreement today to establish their organization.

02122

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7:40 AM-Legis-Contaminants, 1st add↓<

TORONTO - 1st add 740. . . Ontario.↓<

Ontario and federal government tests have found the deadly chemical dioxin and other contaminants in Lake Ontario fish.<

Pillittere says Washington will use the Love Canal decision as an excuse for not excavating the string of potentially-hazardous dump sites along the Niagara Frontier.<

"I do believe that the EPA was pressured into saying that the area was habitable because that's not what the data showed. It's a cover-up to prevent the federal government from (having to) come to New York State and spend billions of dollars to clean up the mess."<

FAMILIES MOVED OUT↓<

Pillittere, whose electoral district includes Love Canal and New York State's two chemical waste disposal sites, said families were moved out of the Love Canal area in February, 1979.<

Three designated rings were drawn around the area, according to the level of contamination, with about half of the 700 families in the third ring accepting an offer from the state to buy their homes.<

The first two rings are still considered unsafe, he said, but the EPA decision means the state - which put \$25 million in escrow to buy up the homes - can begin to sell off the homes it bought in the third ring.<

Brian Charlton, NDP member of the legislature for Hamilton Mountain and the party's environment critic, said the EPA documents were available to Environment Canada and the provincial environment ministry. "who have not commented on the situation, who are not doing the job they're supposed to.<

"Ultimately, it is only public pressure that will cause task forces to be formed and solutions to be found."<

Fulton agreed, saying it's difficult to generate momentum behind the clean-up movement because dioxin "isn't rusting buildings, it isn't forcing cars off the road and it isn't killing people. It is an insidious process."<

CP 1657ed 22-07-82<

The GAZETTE, Montreal, Saturday, July 24, 1982

Ottawa hid report damning return to Love Canal: NDP

OTTAWA (CP) — The Canadian government was accused yesterday of suppressing a report which casts doubt on this month's U.S. decision to move residents back into the contaminated Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

The government was taken by surprise when New Democratic members of Parliament demanded in the House of Commons to know why it was withholding the document.

Environment Minister John Roberts was not in Ottawa to comment, but External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan denied any knowledge of the report. However, an aide to Roberts said later a copy had been lo-

cated in the department's Toronto regional office.

"Perhaps there's been an oversight," the aide conceded. "But there has been absolutely no attempt to suppress anything."

The report, originating in Washington, was part of the data collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prior to ruling that residents could safely return to the chemically-polluted area.

Although not made public, the report was apparently passed along as background information when the EPA informed Canada of its decision. Nine of 11 scientists quoted in the report, however, were opposed to letting residents return.

Overruling their opinions, the EPA announced July 14 that it was safe to return to the area, because levels of contamination there were no higher than in other areas of Niagara Falls.

An ad-hoc international committee, composed of New York state assemblymen and Ontario and federal New Democrats, made the report public in Toronto Thursday.

American committee members condemned the EPA, accusing it of caving in to big-business pressure to ignore pollution.

Neil Young, federal MP for Toronto's Beaches riding, said the committee got the report from a source in the Canadian Environment Department.

Ministry denies supressing report on Love Canal

OTTAWA — The Canadian government suppressed a report that casts doubt on the recent American decision to move residents back into the contaminated Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, N.Y., says an international committee of politicians.

External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan denied any knowledge of the report Friday, but a spokesman for Environment Minister John Roberts said later a copy had been located in the department's regional office in Toronto.

The spokesman denied any attempt to suppress the information.

The report, originating in Washington, was part of the data used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in ruling earlier this month it was safe to let residents return to the chemically-polluted area.

Although not made public, the report was apparently passed along as background information when the EPA informed Canadian authorities of its decision. Nine of 11 scientists quoted in the report were opposed to letting residents return to the area.

Despite their opinions, the EPA announced July 14 it was safe to return to the area because levels of contamination were no higher than in other areas of Niagara Falls.

The international committee, made up of New York state assemblymen and members of the Ontario and federal New Democratic caucuses, released the report Thursday in Toronto.

The committee, which toured the Niagara Frontier last February to make an independent assessment of environmental contamination, handed out additional copies at a second news conference here Friday.

American committee members condemned the EPA, accusing it of caving in to big-business pressure to ignore pollution.

"The EPA has about as

much interest in protecting the environment as the IRA has in protecting Buckingham Palace," said Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey.

Neil Young, federal MP

for the Beaches riding in Toronto, said the committee got the report from a source in the Canadian Environment Department.

The government was taken by surprise in the Commons on Friday when New Democratic Party members demanded to know why it was withholding a document of interest to a large number of Canadian residents.

Roberts was not in Ottawa to comment, and MacGuigan told reporters the government had no knowledge of the report. He promised to look into the matter.

It was left for Roberts's office to confirm later that the report had been located in Toronto and its contents were being studied.

"Perhaps there's been an oversight," the spokesman said. "But there has been absolutely no attempt to suppress anything."

Ottawa burying report says NDP

By GORDON McNULTY
Spectator Staff

OTTAWA — The federal government has been accused of suppressing a scientific report which challenges a U.S. federal ruling declaring the Love Canal area safe to live in.

New Democratic environment critic Jim Fulton said yesterday the Environment Department had done nothing to inform Canadians about the report despite its importance for millions of people who depend on Lake Ontario for their drinking water.

In the report, nine of 11 American scientists cast doubt on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ruling earlier this month that it was safe to let residents return to the infamous dump site in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

The report was recently sent to the department's regional office in Toronto.

Mr. Fulton described the EPA's decision as an attempt by the Reagan administration to "cover up the health dangers of the Love Canal." And he accused Ottawa of "conspiring" with the administration by remaining silent about the report.

Denial

Peter Serafini, a spokesman for Environment Minister John Roberts, denied the department was attempting to suppress the information. He said it is still being analyzed.

"It isn't a Canadian government report," he said. "We did not have any input into it, just as the United States does not have any input into our reports."

Mr. Fulton later met with Canadian external affairs and environment officials who indicated the report will be given more attention by Ottawa.

He and other members of an international committee of politicians which released the report Thursday in Toronto said they expect the Canadian gov-

the EPA at a press conference in Ottawa yesterday.

Brian Charlton, NDP MLA for Hamilton Mountain, said the EPA was part of a conscious effort by the U.S. government and chemical industry to soothe public fears about the Love Canal and bury dissent.

He said the reluctance of both governments to make the report public was "very frightening and reflective of their real commitment to the Niagara River and its clean-up."

State Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey, chairman of the state environmental conservation committee, said the EPA report had "come under a very serious cloud and is in fact a fraud."

"We have lost confidence in anything the EPA has to say," he said. "It has about as much interest in protecting the environment as the IRA has in protecting Buckingham Palace."

Neil Young, NDP MP for Toronto Beaches, said the committee got the report from a source in the Canadian Environment Department.

He told the House of Commons that Mr. Roberts, who was in Vancouver, should be "censured for hiding this serious document from the eyes of Canadians."

The committee, which toured chemical dump sites in the Niagara Falls, N.Y. area last February, signed a pollution control agreement at the press conference.

Superfund

They pledged to press for a bilateral Superfund under the International Joint Commission to clean up chemical dump sites.

The Buffalo Evening News
July 24, 1982.

Canadian Parliament Member Criticizes EPA Canal Report

Special to The News

OTTAWA — A Canadian member of Parliament has voiced some of the strongest criticism yet of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Love Canal report, declaring it virtually ignores a continuing seepage of deadly dioxin into the Niagara River.

"The EPA has been involved in extremely dishonest activity," Jim Fulton, a New Democratic Party member of Parliament, told The Buffalo News after emerging from a meeting in Ottawa Friday with Canadian environmental officials.

The session, also attended by New York State Assemblymen Robert Hynchey, D-Ulster County, and Joseph T. Pillittere, D-Lewiston, was hastily arranged by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau after Mr. Fulton told the House of Commons the Canadian government is helping the EPA cover up the continuing danger posed by Love Canal leakage.

Mr. Trudeau called the accusation "very grave indeed."

Environment Canada, the EPA's Canadian counterpart, promised the legislators it will give priority to an examination of the EPA report and to a review of the report by leading U.S. environmental scientists, several of whom criticized its conclusions.

In the only paragraph devoted to the problem of chemical migration from Love Canal, the EPA report conceded there is "measurable movement of dioxin within the storm sewer system," Mr. Fulton said.

Furthermore, the report tried to discount the "swale theory" of chemical movement through streams and soil erosion to the nearby Niagara River, without producing the evidence to back up such a conclusion, he added.

"It has already been shown that the movement of soils and toxins is quite extensive," Mr. Fulton said.

Leakage of toxins into the Niagara has been an ongoing concern of both the Canadian and U.S. governments, because the river flows into Lake Ontario, the main source of drinking water for about 7 million persons on both sides of the border.

Mr. Fulton alleged that the EPA report amounts to an attempt by the Reagan Administration "to get the chemical industry out of the fix they've gotten themselves into."

He termed it "a very grave political error" that may undermine one of our most important bilateral treaties, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Assemblyman Hynchey, chairman of the state Environment and Conservation Committee, called the EPA report "totally fraudulent."

"The finding that it's OK for people to move back into Love Canal is not substantiated by the information in the report," he charged.

The Sunday Freeman
August 1, 1982.

Hinchey: Love Canal OK 'snow job'

By R.J. KELLY
Freeman staff

ALBANY — Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey, a Canadian official and a member of a federal scientific review committee have condemned the Environmental Protection Agency's conclusion that the Love Canal area is now habitable.

Following a Friday meeting in Albany, Hinchey, chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conserva-

tion Committee, said he is going to ask New York's two senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato, to call for an investigation into the way the EPA study was prepared and the reliability of its conclusions. Both Moynihan and D'Amato also criticized the study after its July 14 release.

"There ought to be something in the public record to show how poorly the EPA has conducted the investigation," Hinchey said.

He called the EPA's claim the region surrounding the abandoned chemical dump is now habitable, "irresponsible" and "a snow job."

Joining Hinchey in condemning the report was Dr. Joseph Highland, a Princeton University biochemist and member of the scientific peer review committee which reviewed the EPA report, and Brian Charlton, a member of the Ontario, Canada provincial parliament.

Love Canal is located in the Niagara Falls area near the border of New York State and Canada.

Hinchey said of the 11 scientists on the peer review committee, only the representative of the chemical industry solidly supported the study. He said five recommended against anyone living on the site again, and nine had reservations about the manner in which the report was conducted.

Highland claimed "the raw data doesn't support the conclusions" of the EPA.

The Princeton scientist, who is co-director of the university's Hazardous Waste Research Program, criticized the methods used as "not standard scientific protocols."

Highland said the data presented was "confusing" and not presented in a format which allowed anyone outside the agency (EPA) to in-

terpret."

After presenting the report to the peer review committee, Highland said scientists were asked if they could conclude the area was not habitable, then interpreted the answers as indicating the area was habitable.

"I don't think you can conclude either way," Highland said.

Hinchey said further studies are needed, particularly regarding the health of former Love Canal residents. He said EPA promised residents in 1980 they would do such a study, but none was ever reported.

Commenting on Gov. Hugh Carey's support of the EPA report, Hinchey said, "He was mistaken. He was taken in by the EPA."

"Normally you would think you can depend on the EPA ... but this administration is not committed to the environment," Hinchey charged.

AGREEMENT

JULY 23, 1982

OTTAWA, CANADA

BETWEEN

CANADIAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

AND

UNITED STATES NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMEN

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE GREAT LAKES AND NIAGARA RIVER

The November 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed by the United States and Canada and identified the following policies (Article II, PURPOSE):

- (a) The discharge of toxic substances in toxic amounts be prohibited and the discharge of any or all persistent toxic substances be virtually eliminated;
- (b) Financial assistance to construct publicly owned waste treatment works be provided by a combination of local, state, provincial, and federal participation; and
- (c) Coordinated planning processes and best management practices be developed and implemented by the respective jurisdictions to ensure adequate control of all sources of pollutants.

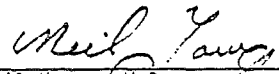
Pursuant to these policies, the signators to this AGREEMENT hereby agree to continue their work in making representations to their respective governments to ensure that these policies are followed.

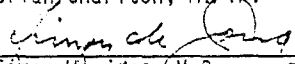
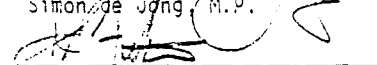
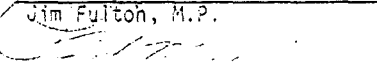
Specifically, this will involve the following:

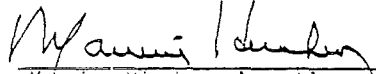
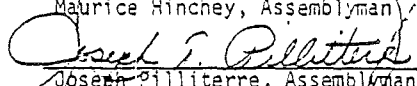
1. Monitor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Niagara Frontier Agenda.
2. Pursue top-level meetings between heads of U.S. and Canadian governments.
3. Agree to the establishment of a bilateral "Superfund" under the auspices of the International Joint Commission.

This AGREEMENT will be reviewed by both parties in a year's time to monitor the progress of the work done by Canadian and United States levels of government.

SIGNED


Neil Young, M.P.

Brian Charlton, M.P.

Simon de Jong, M.P.

Jim Fulton, M.P.

Ted Miller, M.P.


Maurice Hinchey, Assemblyman

Joseph P. Pillittere, Assemblyman