

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Canadian Commissioners:
Dr. Maxwell Cohen
Mr. Bernard Beaupre
Mr. Keith A. Henry
U.S. Commissioners:
Mr. Henry P. Smith, III
Mr. Charles R. Ross
Mr. Victor L. Smith
Jack H. Warren, Ambassador to Canada
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, April 5, 1976
12:00 - 12:37 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Smith: My wife sends her best regards.

President: Betty is out in Wisconsin campaigning. She does a better job that I do.

Tell me about some of your problems.

Smith: I just happen to have a brochure.

President: Michigan has more coastline than any other state.

Cohen: Canada is supposed to have 53,000 miles of coastline.

President: How are we doing on cleaning up the Lakes?

Smith: There are indicators they are getting better. We are making progress.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY ld NARA DATE 6/17/04

~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFIED BY: NSA / SP-1

Henry: It is still a very serious problem and the best we can say is it isn't getting worse.

President: In my '77 budget I have \$6.9 billion -- the biggest in the history of the U.S.

Cohen: There is a surprising inability of industry to meet the demand for pumps and other equipment.

Smith: Lake Ontario is rising again and Lake St. Louise is in flood. You will be getting calls to pull the plug on that Lake -- but I hope it will be all right.

President: Aren't all the Lakes high?

Smith: Since Hurricane Agnes, they have all been high.

President: When I first ran for Congress, Lake Michigan was high and I blamed my opponent for not doing anything about it.

Cohen: The final irony is that the Lake level was in '64, when we started, very low; now they are very high.

Ross: We have felt we should regulate the Lakes as a unit, but that isn't popular with everyone.

Cohen: We are a unique institution and we should all be proud of it. What if we had to quarrel over every water problem?

Cohen: I heard Tom Enders give his maiden address. It was a good job -- unbalanced, but a good bit of advocacy.

Ross: How about a ski competition with the Prime Minister?

President: We have thought of that but not in '76.

Ross: We would be happy to host such an event at Mt. Mansfield.

President: I used to ski there.

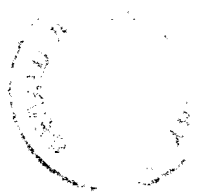
Smith: We are happy to hear your budget has taken in this environment problem. We also would make a plea for a surveillance system so we can know how well we are doing.

Cohen: I think it is essential to keep up the momentum. The Lakes are unique and we shouldn't relax our effort. We have always been concerned to recognize the twin imperatives of economics and the environment.

President: I hear Lake Erie is better.

Henry: Be cautious about that. The whole Lake is not markedly better.

Smith: Some beaches have been reopened and the fishing is better.



S My wife sends her best regards
P Betty is out in Wisc comparing. She does a better job than I.

Tell me about some of your plans.

S I just happen to have a headache.
P Wash, you have more exact time than any other state.

C Canada is supposed to have 53 new miles of worldline.

P How are you doing on cleaning up c lakes

S There are in fact they are getting better. We are making prog.

Keith? It is still a very serious prob + but we can say it isn't getting worse.

P During 77 budget I have 6.9 bil - a biggest in history of U.S.

C There is a surprising inability of industry to meet demand for pumps + other equip.

S L. Ontario is using against L. St. Lawrence is in flood. You will be getting calls to pull a plug on that lake - but I hope will be all right.

P Aren't all c lakes high?

S Since hurricane Agnes they have all been high.

P When I 1st saw for long, L. St. Lawrence was high + I ~~was~~ blamed my opponent for not doing anything about it.

C The final irony is that - lake level was going to ~~be~~ in 64 when we started ~~was~~ very low, now they are very high.

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C We are a unique institution + we should all be proud of it. What if we had to quarrel over every water prob.



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Russ How about the composition of a PM.

P We have that of that but section 76.

Russ We would be happy to have such amendment at
not Mansfield

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smaller system so we can know
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The lakes are unique & we shouldn't replace
efforts. We are always been important to keep
a strong reputation of economy & environment.

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Keith Because about that. The whole lake is not necessarily
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