



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### UNITED STATES-CANADIAN OFFICIALS CONFER ON DUCK PROBLEM

Meeting here for two days, representatives of the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the Government of the United States pinpointed the crux of the problem of production of migratory waterfowl as centering in the three prairie provinces of Canada and the three adjacent prairie States of the United States (North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota).

Some 4,400,000 potholes which are used by ducks for breeding grounds are located in this area.

The group agreed to detail specific areas which are critical to duck production with an idea of assembling data on these areas which may bring possible solution of outstanding problems now evident in these localities.

Experts of the Canadian Wildlife Service and of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are being assigned specific fields for research and they will provide information for the group which plans to meet again in Ottawa, Canada, the first week of October.

The group which met here August 16 and 17 was composed of E. A. Cote, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources; R. A. Faibish, Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture; Dr. M. Menzies, an adviser to the Minister of Agriculture; and Dr. D. A. Munro, Chief Ornithologist of the Canadian Wildlife Service, representing the Canadian Government; and Frank P. Briggs, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife; Daniel H. Janzen, Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; Gladwin E. Young, Deputy Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service; and Norman A. Berg of the Soil Conservation Service who represented George A. Selke, Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The meeting here came as a direct result of the conferences in Canada some months ago between Secretary of Agriculture Freeman, Secretary of the Interior Udall, Minister of Agriculture Hamilton and Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources Dinsdale.

While the meeting was wholly informal, the group heard expert testimony on the migratory waterfowl problems of the North American continent and turned its attention to problems intended to insure habitat on both sides of the International boundary line. It was agreed that much research is needed and the group recognized that it is essential and necessary that better cooperation and understanding between farmers, sportsmen, and Government agencies be reached at an early date.

Recent droughts have underlined the direct relationship between duck production and agricultural practices. Data presented to this group showed the fluctuation of the duck population between the good years and the bad years and emphasized that if duck production is to be improved, breeding habitat must also be improved.