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VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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1976 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1976 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ENVIRONMENT: A POLL OF KEY LEGISLATORS

On the eve of the New Year and the commencement of the 1976 legislative session, the VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT conducted a poll of five key legislators with important assignments on Natural Resources Committees of the Vermont House and Senate. These legislators responded to three questions about the environmental business coming before the 1976 General Assembly and the prevailing mood of the new session.

Those legislators who responded to the poll were: Representative Henry Carse (R. Hinesburg), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee; Representative John J. Mulligan (D. Rutland), Vice-Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee; Representative Samuel Lloyd (D. Weston), member of the House Natural Resources Committee; Senator Arthur Gibb (R. Addison), Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; and Senator Edward Janeway (R. Windham) member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

QUESTION 1:

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE ITEMS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA IN THE 1976 SESSION?

Rep. Carse: "We had a meeting with the Speaker," reported Carse. "He is going to try for a short session. The emphasis will be on budget matters." Rep. Carse discussed H. 383, a version of a state land use plan developed in the House Natural Resources Committee. Carse said that it was necessary to complete the schedule of Act 250. This schedule calls for adoption of a state land use plan. Carse indicated that success in getting a land use plan through the House Ways and Means Committee would depend on adoption of an appraisal bill to even out appraisals of land throughout the state and a land use tax. Rep. Carse discussed H. 436, a bill to provide equal treatment of all housing types, particularly mobile homes. "I think we will have hearings on it," he said. He also discussed S. 128, a bill that would ban phosphates in household detergents. Said Carse: "There is a lot of work to do on phosphates. This seems to be a regional concern. It doesn't seem to interest legislators on the eastern side of the state."

Rep. Mulligan: Rep. Mulligan had one clear reply to the question, two words, "Solid waste," Rep. Mulligan has introduced H. 248, a bill to provide a resource recovery tax on containers. "I think this is first and foremost," he said, referring to the solid waste bill. "We have got to get away from landfill operations. This is a particular problem in Rutland." Rep. Mulligan emphasized that the problem was pretty general. "We have a problem in four or five places (in the state) with ground water pollution from landfill operations," he reported. Rep. Mulligan has been a key member of a summer study committee on solid waste.

Rep. Lloyd: Rep. Lloyd assigned top priority to two bills. He felt that Rep. Norris Hoyt's proposal H. 134 for open land would be "a primary legislative item as far as future uses and maintenance of open space." He also referred to S. 128, a bill dealing with phosphates in Lake Champlain. "Maintaining clean water...that's an exceedingly important bill."
