

14A \* THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR Fri, Jan. 24, 1958



**CREWS DUMP BENTONITE INTO LAKE COMO**  
It is hoped the 'cork' will prevent further water loss

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### Lake Como Corked; Now--Will it Hold?

City crews today had put a cork in the hole in the ice over the suspected area Thursday, punch-bottom of Lake Como. Now they wait to see if it holds, then dumping the bentonite into the hole.

In December the St. Paul lake began to lose water, apparently through a "cork" in the bottom at the southeast end. There was a previous leak, too, of extensive water loss which required pumping 100 million gallons a year into Como.

The new leak, however, was more serious. And St. Paul city council voted to spend \$2,500 for the "cork"—40 tons of bentonite, a volcanic soil which spreads over the lake bottom, expands into a gelatin-like mass and forms a seal.

Bentonite is frequently used to seal the bottoms of reservoirs.

St. Paul workmen moved the jetted area Thursday, punch-bottom of Lake Como. Now they wait to see if it holds, then dumping the bentonite into the hole.

If the bentonite seals the porous bottom, a danger which has aroused nearby residents will be over. If not, something else will have to be tried. (Toluca lake, in a swampy residential district of Los Angeles, Calif., a few years ago was losing water. They drained it, jacked the bottom with concrete, then on the Lake Como levee to see if the cork works.

A close watch will be kept on the Lake Como levee to see if the cork works.



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## Bentonite Used To Plug Leak In Lake

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