

Dr. HARRISON: Yes, it is scheduled for completion in 1959.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: On page 5 of the minister's report it mentions that it was Canada's responsibility to develop the resources of its continental shelves. Dr. Harrison, can you give us a progress report on the work that has been done in this connection, thus far?

Dr. HARRISON: I only know what has been done specifically, so far as geological work is concerned. Last year an aeromagnetic investigation was completed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. That data has not yet been compiled. We ran into difficulties on navigational procedure. It has taken longer to have that data put together than we had anticipated. But maps showing the result of the work should begin to be issued within the next six months.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: In connection with that program, has there been any consultation with the provinces concerned in order to define the respective responsibilities of the federal and provincial authorities?

Dr. HARRISON: That is not my question, I think.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Could the deputy minister answer it, then?

Dr. BOYER: This is not the responsibility of our department. We do the scientific work on the shelf, such as submarine geology or hydrography. But it is not the responsibility of our department to decide who has the exclusive right of access, or ownership.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are not speaking of the Arctic continental shelf?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: No, the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In connection with this program, again, is it the intention of the department to carry on this year in the Gulf of St. Lawrence area, or has it been completed?

Dr. HARRISON: It has been completed in so far as it is practicable, with the navigational aids we currently have.

Our difficulty is two-fold; the fixed positions for navigational aids were so far away that when we required most accuracy, farthest out in the gulf, we got the least accuracy. Unless new positions are established as navigational aids, there is no particular purpose in attempting to refine and extend the work. One other difficulty which we encountered unexpectedly was severe icing conditions. When flying at only a thousand feet icing is a serious consideration.

Mr. AIKEN: I should like to follow up the matter of aeromagnetic survey in Ontario and Quebec, including the central region from Parry Sound to Chibougamau. Could you spell out the purpose of that survey?

Dr. HARRISON: All aeromagnetic surveys which we conduct are designed to provide the geologist or the prospector with important information on the area which is being investigated.

This particular part of Canada, that is, from Ottawa north, is astonishing in the lack of specialized information; and it is also exceedingly difficult to get it because of the complexity of the geological terrain. But we are attempting to be systematic in our coverage of that region. Incidentally, we are going to fill in gaps in information which we already have; and we are trying to utilize the whole information as a basis for geological investigation over the years.

Mr. AIKEN: Would this be with respect to minerals and mines?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes, and basic geological investigation as well.

Mr. AIKEN: It would be done entirely by aircraft?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes.

Mr. AIKEN: And, along that line, are special aircraft required for this type of work, or can any aircraft company adapt their aircraft for this survey work?