

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. McLeod, I would like to ask a question. Do you find that communities and industries in provinces take into full account the information that is available to them in their planning of the use of water? I am thinking particularly of some of the areas where there is a considerable shortage of water, as on the prairies. Has the use of that water been properly planned, or is it being done on a hit-and-miss basis?

Mr. McLEOD: That is a pretty large question, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, you must have some opinion.

Mr. McLEOD: I think the answer varies all the way from full consideration of all available information by some agencies, to perhaps not enough consideration or not enough effort to find out what is available by other agencies.

I do not believe that I could offer a much more concrete answer than that. Mr. Côté, would you like to say something on that?

Mr. E. A. CÔTÉ (*Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources*): I should imagine, Mr. Chairman, that those communities that hire engineers to do some work for them, either for water supply or any other purpose, would find that those engineers would consult the flow data records of the department, and would consult, in the case of ground water, the ground water records of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

The CHAIRMAN: I was thinking of this, that it could be such that there was no over-all plan for the use of the water in a basin or an area, and that final development could be jeopardized by, not necessarily ill-planning, but by not giving consideration to the over-all use in those areas.

We will be coming into this subject later on. This applies particularly as regards the prairie provinces, I imagine, where there is probably the biggest shortage of water in all of Canada.

Mr. T. M. PATTERSON (*Director, Water Resources Branch*): In answer to your question, Mr. Chairman, I think I will go further. I think that there is room for improved cooperation in the planning and use of the water resources of a large river basin such as the western rivers to which you are referring, particularly the Saskatchewan river, where it flows through different jurisdictions, three provinces, and each province has its own particular needs to look after. I think there could be improved study and planning of a river of that nature.

The CHAIRMAN: You do not feel that there is quite enough coordination yet in the planning of these things?

Mr. PATTERSON: The planning has not gone far enough yet, I would say.

Mr. McLEOD: I think perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I could just say this. I do not know if all of you gentlemen can see this map. It is of the three prairie provinces and northwestern Ontario. The Nelson river drainage basin, of which the Saskatchewan river forms a large part, consists, as you can see, of virtually the southern half of Alberta, at least the southern half of Saskatchewan, with the exception of a slight strip which flows to the Missouri, at least half of the province of Manitoba, plus a surprising amount of northwestern Ontario.

That is probably our best example of a river system which covers parts of four provinces, where in parts the area is short of water and in other parts it has good supplies, and in which, therefore, the downstream section of the river in Manitoba can be affected by something done out in Alberta or something done in Ontario.

Mr. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, would it be in order for me to ask the witness this question. Have you done extensive studies in the immediate vicinity of what is known as the Rocky Mountain trench as to the potential storages available in that area, or not?