

Since legislative authority for international bridge matters is vested in the Federal Government under section 92(10) of the British North America Act, it would theoretically be possible for that Government to take action on its own to solve existing problems, and to establish arrangements for the construction, operation and maintenance of international bridges in future. The 1962 guidelines were, of course, a step in this direction. Despite constitutional supremacy, it is however questionable whether the international bridge field can be effectively occupied without the close cooperation of the provinces concerned, and this is particularly true in Ontario where the major bridges are located and where the main difficulties have arisen. Obviously, the location of an international bridge is closely related to the provincial highway network, and its effectiveness is equally dependent on the activities of the Provincial Government. It would therefore seem to be impractical for the Federal Government to act on its own with regard to international bridge problems.

The importance which the Province of Ontario attaches to international bridges as extensions of its highway network was made clear recently when a direct approach was made to the Federal Government to discuss a proposal for the better handling of international bridges, based on provincial participation. In essence, the Ontario proposal is that those international bridges now under the direct control of either the Federal Government or the Province should be transferred to a public authority set up jointly by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Any bridge subsequently reverting to Canada would be assigned to the Authority, which would also be responsible for the construction and operation of new international bridges (or more properly the Canadian part of such bridges). In addition, the Authority would regulate the operation of the Canadian half of all other bridges between Ontario and the U.S.A. until such time as they could be brought under direct management following reversion. The Ontario