

Mr. REID: What was the result of the study on the Ottawa River about which you were speaking?

Mr. PATTERSON: The report of the board has been filed with the government. It had to do with whether or not an improved system of regulation could be developed in the Ottawa River basin. The report is with the governments, and before it is tabled there has to be agreement between the three governments involved as to a date for releasing the report.

Mr. REID: I see. I would like to deal now with boundary waters and I have before me the Report of the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada on pollution of Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods. This came out in February, 1965. What authority does the federal government have to enforce the seven or eight recommendations that were made by the International Joint Commission? Do we have any power?

Mr. PATTERSON: I am not in a position, Mr. Chairman, to answer that question. Perhaps the Deputy Minister might be able to.

Mr. HARRISON: I am afraid not.

Mr. REID: I am concerned about this because the *Winnipeg Free Press* has been carrying a series of articles on pollution in northwestern Ontario and in Manitoba itself. What has been done since this report was filed in February 1965, and the situation existing now are not particularly encouraging. If it is the International Joint Commission which made the recommendations, surely then the federal government ought to have some responsibility ensuring that action was carried out. There has been a great deal of work done by the Ontario Water Resources Commission in putting pressure on the municipalities. There have been improvements made by the industries causing the greater part of pollution, but I do not think that progress is being made as quickly as is desirable in this case.

The CHAIRMAN: With respect to this statement of the officials whether or not they could give you an answer on that, if it is all right, the Assistant Deputy Minister might like to take that question as notice and perhaps refer to it at our next meeting.

Mr. REID: Yes. I would be happy or failing, perhaps Dr. Harrison or the Parliamentary Secretary might like to take a look at this as well.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, perhaps the answer to that particular part of your question dealing with the authority of the federal government could be brought up at our next meeting.

Mr. REID: Mr. Patterson, does the water resources branch have any authority in checking, or does it do any checking into the sewage disposal system of towns and cities?

Mr. PATTERSON: No, sir, not the water resources branch.

Mr. REID: This is purely a provincial responsibility.

Mr. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

Mr. REID: One of the things that consistently comes up in all these reports is that pollution is a very expensive thing to deal with, very expensive to