

● (12.30 p.m.)

Mr. CAMERON: A Canadian committee was set up to study the effects of the excavation that was made. This committee consults with U.S. side and there is an international co-ordinating committee for hydrologic and hydraulic data on the river. That committee has not agreed upon the flows that go through the St. Clair River and pending such agreement definite agreement cannot be reached on the effect that the excavation had.

Mr. PETERS: What about the studies that were taking place respecting the control of the St. Lawrence below Montreal in relation to the great lakes water level?

Mr. CAMERON: The study that is proceeding below Montreal with respect to improving the navigation channels there and the level of the Montreal harbour—

Mr. PETERS: I was not referring to the twinning, I am referring to the—

Mr. CAMERON: No. This is below Montreal.

Mr. PETERS: Yes.

Mr. CAMERON: —is being carried out by the Department of Transport. Of course, anything they do down there does not have an effect on the great lakes levels.

Mr. PETERS: Well it would, of course. If you do not need the water in Montreal harbour you do not have to let it out of Lake Ontario. You could use the dam which has never been operated since we built the thing. Is that not true? We have never used the dam.

Mr. CAMERON: The dam at Iroquois?

Mr. PETERS: At Iroquois.

Mr. CAMERON: It was used the other day. It has been used. You are quite correct; it is only rarely used. It does save the purpose of preventing flooding at Morrisburg in Lake St. Lawrence. But it is only rarely used and the other deduction that you have drawn that if these works were in below Montreal harbour and Montreal harbour levels were raised this would mean that Montreal harbour would not need to call upon the great lakes to supply water. This is probably the case. It might change the pattern of release of water from Lake Ontario to some extent.

Mr. PETERS: Well, is your branch in co-operation with the Department of Transport then in carrying on this feasibility study of control below Montreal?

Mr. CAMERON: The study below Montreal is being carried out by the Department of Transport.

Mr. PETERS: To what extent is it progressing? What is the progress of that study?

Mr. CAMERON: I cannot pretend to be an authority on what they have done or what they have not done. They have had models of different reaches of the river, and they are at the present time down at N.R.C. preparing a model which will extend all the way from Montreal harbour down to, I believe, as far as Quebec city. Presumably on the result of the test they get through the utilization of that model they will come to a decision on what works may be required that whole reach of the river to meet what they need.