

Dr. HARRISON: Yes. Except for Quebec and Ontario the area covered in detail by the provincial governments is relatively small.

Mr. DUMAS: But in Quebec and Ontario there is a considerable area covered in detail.

Dr. HARRISON: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would you say that our mapping program is sadly behind in Canada?

An hon. MEMBER: Behind what?

Mr. NIELSEN: It seems to be, if one may judge by that last map you showed us.

Dr. HARRISON: This is a question which is exceedingly difficult to answer. In respect of reconnaissance mapping, our initial mapping, for which, by more or less tacit agreement, we are responsible, we are not in too bad shape, as you can see. At one stage we expected that we might reasonably have completed it by 1970 or 1972; but it is getting shoved a little farther back, as we come up through unforeseen difficulties, and do not have the staff.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you find that because of a lack of funds there are any difficulties existing in your branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys with regard to carrying on a mapping program efficiently and adequately? Do you need more staff and more equipment?

Dr. HARRISON: I suppose any government department thinks that it could use more staff. We would like very much to have more staff, and therefore be able to give adequate coverage across the whole of Canada in respect of our geological investigation.

Mr. NIELSEN: Is the lack of staff slowing down or prohibiting your mapping program? Do you want to do more than you are doing now?

Dr. HARRISON: I believe so, yes; I believe we should be doing more.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would I be right in saying that this is a vital program of this department, that should be undertaken?

Dr. HARRISON: That is perhaps a question which might better be answered by someone else.

Dr. BOYER: There are many areas of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys which are vital areas. If we think of the research work we are doing in our mines branch in ore dressing and metallurgy, and if we think of the dominion observatory research work, and the surveying and mapping of Canada, it will be realized that we have still a big job to accomplish.

We could, of course, do with much more staff and a lot more money; but it is a matter of how much the public can pay for the job to be hastened. We are trying, as much as possible, to give priority where there is urgent work to be done. No doubt if we could have more money and do more geological work in advance our knowledge of the geology of Canada, and to terminate our geological mapping at an earlier date, it would be better. Actually, we have to choose between certain areas and certain projects on a priority basis.

Mr. NIELSEN: Referring to the mapping program, Mr. Deputy Minister, I wonder if you are satisfied that its progress is satisfactory. Do you think that it is lagging behind? If so, what is the cure for it?

Dr. BOYER: The cure for it, Mr. Chairman, would be more money and more personnel to do the job. In Canada, here, most of the work in many of the branches of geological and geographical surveys, and particularly mapping, and some dominion observatory parties, we can do only in the summer time. However, we are meeting the challenge in Canada even if we can only operate during a certain number of months each year.