

Mr. RICHARDSON: The Municipal Drainage Act of the province is pretty straightforward. It sets down what can or cannot be done. If a sufficient number of land owners want a certain area drained, and the majority who are going to have to pay for it do not object, then there is not very much they can do but go ahead and drain the area.

Senator TAYLOR (*Norfolk*): Even if it is within a conservation area where you are hoping to store water?

Mr. RICHARDSON: The only thing to do—and some of the Authorities have done this—is to go in and buy a piece of land and this nullifies the drainage work altogether.

Senator GOLDING: You mentioned the dam at Fergus.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Yes.

Senator GOLDING: Do you remember how much land was taken over for that dam?

Mr. RICHARDSON: I would think about 3,000 acres. Do you know the one at Conestogo which has just been completed?

Senator GOLDING: Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON: They got a little more land there, about 5,000 acres. One of the best things that has been done is the building of the Luther Marsh Dam. That big marsh is now dammed up, and it is not only storing water but it is making a beautiful wild life preserve.

Senator GOLDING: How are the costs assessed there?

Mr. RICHARDSON: On the Shand?

Senator GOLDING: Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON: The three dams have been built by the Grand River Conservation Commission which was started before the Authorities, but it is the same sort of organization. The division of costs there was 37½ per cent federal, 37½ per cent Ontario, and 25 per cent from the eight municipalities in the Commission. There are no townships or villages included. There are eight urban municipalities: Fergus, Elora, Galt, Preston, Paris, Kitchener, Waterloo and Brantford. They were charged proportionately, mostly on the basis of assessment for their 25 per cent of the cost.

Senator GOLDING: With respect to the Fanshaw dam the costs would be assessed in the same way?

Mr. RICHARDSON: In just the same way.

Senator McGRAND: This may be an unfair question, and this information may not be obtainable, but we know that when the snow disappears the grass starts to grow in the Ottawa Valley, the Montreal area and the Toronto area much faster than it does in, say, North Bay. Of course, I realize that grass starts to grow with the heat, which is essential, and moisture. What studies have there been made in the conservation of water in regard to what I am mentioning?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Do you mean the ground water?

Senator McGRAND: Yes. In certain areas vegetation starts much earlier than it does in others.

Mr. RICHARDSON: I think that is pretty generally a matter of temperature.

Senator McGRAND: Well, some of it is due to temperature.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Some of it is due to rainfall, but...

Senator McGRAND: Have any charts ever been prepared which demonstrate the relationship between the conservation of soil water and the early start of vegetation growth?

Mr. RICHARDSON: I do not know. I will not say there have not been any studies made, but I doubt it.