

Mr. RYAN: Are there any other tracks followed by moisture laden air that would arrive at the watershed of the great lakes which you have been able to define?

Mr. LANGFORD: I am afraid I am not the one to give you the answer to that question because it is outside of my field of activities.

Mr. RYAN: In your endeavours to get the various jurisdictions together to give you some kind of formal authority, have you had any talks with the resources council of the ministers?

Mr. LANGFORD: The federal and provincial ministers, you mean? I know the minister from Ontario, Mr. Sooner, quite well. I have had some informal discussions with him, but I have never had any formal discussions. I hope to do it. They have a new secretary general and I have met him. I have an invitation to see him in Montreal and discuss some of these things.

Mr. RYAN: Do you think this body would offer you any hope of getting the various jurisdictions together if we were to encourage it to do so?

Mr. LANGFORD: It seems to me that this committee deals in a pretty high and rarified atmosphere. It is a policy making level and I am at the working level. I have not had occasion to find out what they are prepared to do or what they can do at the policy level. They do not have anything going at the working level.

Mr. RYAN: Would it be this committee which would decide it would be better to simply regulate the great lakes or go into proposals such as the one which Mr. Kierans suggests?

Mr. LANGFORD: One of the difficulties there is that you have the 10 provinces and the federal government all involved in this. Essentially this is a problem involving two provinces and the federal government. You are going to dilute the effort if you have the other 10 provinces going into it. It seems to me there are certain aspects which must be dealt with locally.

Mr. RYAN: What about dealings with the United States sector? What body would you think could do this for Canada in a preliminary way?

Mr. LANGFORD: The United States have the same problems as we have in coming together. They have their great lakes commission which brings together the eight states at a political level, represented by the governor or his appointee. They meet quite regularly. They are more concerned with jurisdictional matters than with the development of the lakes from a physical viewpoint.

Mr. RYAN: So we have nothing at the moment which could be the equivalent of the great lakes commission? Is this the case?

Mr. LANGFORD: I think that is correct.

Mr. RYAN: On neither side is there a body that is presently authorized to deal with the problem we are dealing with, which is mainly the stabilization of water levels?

Mr. LANGFORD: I have a feeling that the great lakes are so important nationally to this country that they justify a ministry having to do with the great lakes.

Mr. RYAN: A federal ministry?

Mr. LANGFORD: Yes.

Mr. RYAN: In your evidence you stated that a flooding problem could arise in the Montreal island area, particularly in respect to the harbour, owing to the alterations in the river for Expo '67 purposes. Could you enlarge on this?

Mr. LANGFORD: They are enlarging the islands there to obtain more area. If they enlarge the islands it means encroachment on the river, does it not?