

I shall now table copies of these reports in English and in French. They will be distributed without delay.

The report being tabled is styled:

St. Lawrence Deep Waterway, International Rapids Section.

Reports submitted to the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Canada by the Canadian temporary Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin committee and the United States St. Lawrence advisory committee.

1. Joint report submitted by the committees.
2. Engineering report transmitted by the committees.
3. Detailed estimate of cost.

The question of the relationship of the St. Lawrence waterway project, both to the immediate war effort of our country and to the broader defence problems in which the governments both of Canada and the United States of America are interested, has been carefully considered by the two governments. I deem it advisable immediately to bring to the attention of parliament the exchange of correspondence, which contains a personal message addressed to me by the President of the United States of America, with regard to this aspect of the question. I do not think that it would be desirable to comment on Mr. Roosevelt's statement at the present stage, but I feel bound to express the satisfaction and gratification of the government, and, I am sure, of all Canadians, at the president's action in placing on record in a formal state paper the determination of the government of the United States to supply such aid and material to Great Britain, the members of the commonwealth and their allies, as may be necessary to enable them to bring the war to a successful termination.

As these communications are of the greatest possible public interest, I shall now read to the house the exchange of notes between the United States minister and myself of March 5 and March 10, which contain the message referred to.

The following is the message addressed by myself as Secretary of State for External Affairs to Mr. Moffat, the United States minister to Canada. It is dated Ottawa, March 5, 1941:

Sir:

I have the honour to refer to certain questions which have arisen in the course of the St. Lawrence waterway negotiations, and which we have discussed recently.

As you are aware, my colleagues and I have been giving prolonged consideration to the problems presented by the St. Lawrence waterway project. We have noted the progress made in the preparation of the engineering plan for the international section and in the drafting of the general agreement. There is, however, one consideration of a fundamental character to which we desire to call attention.