

7. In the course of discussion it was suggested that the course of action to be adopted by the provincial and local authorities in removing damaged houses from dangerous areas seemed sensible. However, it did not seem proper for the Federal government to share in paying for what was essentially zoning and consequently a provincial or local responsibility. The Federal government, however, might agree to share in providing maximum assistance in those cases where homes had been damaged and where services had been disrupted and would not be replaced, but no federal assistance should be extended in cases where services had not been disrupted and where houses were being removed simply on zoning considerations.

8. The Cabinet agreed that the Secretary inform the provincial officials concerned that the Federal government would be prepared to share the cost of assistance at the maximum figure for houses damaged during the floods of October 15th, 1954, in the Toronto area and where services had been disrupted and would not be repaired, but would not be prepared to share in providing assistance to damaged dwellings where services remained available but where the houses were to be removed as a precaution against damage from floods in the future.

Legislation; bill to provide control over construction of works interfering with the flow of waters crossing the international boundary

9. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, referring to discussion at the meeting of October 28th, 1954, reported that, in preparing the draft legislation to provide federal control over the construction of works which interfered with the normal flow of waters across international or interprovincial boundaries, the Department of Justice had felt it necessary to provide that such improvements were "works for the general advantage of Canada" as envisaged in section 92(10)(c) of the British North America Act.

There did not seem to be any serious difficulty arising from this in the case of streams flowing across the international boundary. A rather difficult problem would be created, however, if improvements in the rivers which crossed interprovincial boundaries or which formed the boundary between two provinces, such as the Ottawa River, were declared to be works for the general advantage of Canada, and thus removed from provincial jurisdiction.

He recommended that the applicability of the proposed legislation be restricted to rivers flowing across the international boundary.

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