

SENATOR ISNOR: Mr. Dymond, have you given any thought to the suggestion made yesterday in regard to having different periods for different provinces because of weather conditions?

Mr. DYMOND: We have given quite a bit of thought to that particular question, senator, as a result of numerous representations that have been made from various quarters regarding inequalities in the program by virtue of the fact that the weather is much more difficult to build in in certain parts and at certain times in Canada than in other parts. We have tried to come up with some way of drawing boundary lines around the various parts of Canada that would provide a more equitable sort of approach in terms of precipitation, temperature, various conditions, and drawing lines on maps based on weather data. And I must confess that every time we have come up and looked at one of these maps and tried to make a judgment as to what would be equitable, at that point I am afraid we threw up our hands and said that we really could not see a way of equalizing the impact of weather in any equitable way so far as municipalities were concerned. This is not to say we give up as of now, but we have certainly found it extremely difficult to come up with any policy based on this sort of approach.

SENATOR SMITH (*Queens-Shelburne*): I can understand the difficulty on the part of Nova Scotia, which is my home. If I go back inland 10 or 15 miles I am in another climate completely. I can play golf while they have two feet of snow on the hills 15 to 20 miles inland. I do not think anyone is ever going to solve that kind of thing.

Mr. DYMOND: The other variable is that the data we were working on was long-term averages of weather—precipitation, temperature, and that sort of thing—and, of course, the weather varies tremendously from year to year and area to area. What might be equitable one year turns out to be inequitable another year.

SENATOR YUZYK: Do you get any guidance at all from the provinces regarding some of these projects, such as weather and the like? Do the provinces give you any criticism or advice on some of these programs—the winter works program, for instance?

Mr. DYMOND: With respect to this matter?

SENATOR YUZYK: In general, I am wondering. It looks as if it is quite acceptable right across the country by the provinces. If it is, then they would give some kind of criticism, good or bad, or whether they are satisfied or not, which would help out in the coming years to improve this program.

Mr. DYMOND: Yes, I might say that last year we conducted quite an extensive research program on the program itself, in co-operation with, I think, each of the provinces.

Mr. HEREFORD: Yes, each of the provinces.

Mr. DYMOND: And we prepared a report for the use of the department and the provinces on the program, and certain suggestions and recommendations in a very general character emerged from that report, designed to make the program a better and more effective one. We held a meeting of provincial officials and departmental officials last year, was it?

Mr. HEREFORD: Early June.

Mr. DYMOND: In early June of last year, and really there were not many recommendations for change that came out of that meeting at the official level. I do not want to give the impression by any means that we are at all happy necessarily with all the provisions or that all the provinces are happy; but when we went through this exercise of trying to find out from the provinces—the point