

public interest that public ownership seems desirable. These considerations presumably lay behind the 1962 guidelines, and would also apply if the question of public ownership were to be reconsidered. It should be pointed out that the Ontario proposal may be of little value if the Federal Government holds firm to guideline (b) which envisages a joint authority for each bridge with equal representation from both sides of the border, since such an arrangement would prevent a federal/provincial body from exerting any effective control. However, as indicated in Appendix III, the concept of international joint authorities may not be practical, and if this point is accepted, the Ontario proposal is not automatically ruled out.

On the assumption that the Federal Government will not reverse its stand and encourage the construction and operation of international bridges by private bodies, there are essentially two courses open to it as far as management arrangements for bridges under direct Canadian control are concerned:

- 1) the Canadian half of each bridge could operate as a separate entity with its own bridge authority operating under federal legislation. This would leave the way open to the establishment of a joint authority with the U.S.A. and would not prevent participation by provincial nominees in the authority.
- 2) the Canadian half of all the bridges could be administered by one overall authority and this is basically the Ontario proposal. The practicality of this course depends to some degree on the time required to bring a sufficiently large number of bridges under the Authority. Initially, only three bridges (Seaway International, Blue Water, Pigeon River) could be transferred to an overall public authority, and the number would only be increased in the near future by the addition of new bridges or twin spans and the reversion of the Thousand Islands Bridge in 1976. Under present arrangements, other bridges would not revert to the Authority until, in most cases, the year 2000. This tends to weaken some of