

Mr. RICHARDSON: I think it would apply to both. The policy on grants changes from year to year. For example, three years ago Ontario was contributing only 37½ per cent to flood control work, but around 1955 it brought the figure up to 50 per cent. The authority hopes the Government of Ontario will make some more changes, but these things are matters of policy and they do change a little each year.

Senator SMITH (*Kamloops*): What about the federal contribution, has it changed or has it been 37½ per cent through-out the program?

Mr. RICHARDSON: It is fixed by the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, which says the federal Government can pay up to 37½ per cent.

Senator SMITH (*Kamloops*): You say: "It should be pointed out, however, that the government of Canada is under no legal obligation to assist the province in such work." I wonder if there has been an established program by precedent or has it changed? Have there been variations from that 37½ per cent contributed by the federal Government?

Mr. RICHARDSON: No. That has been the maximum which the federal Government has been giving. That is all it was ever asked for. The first dam that was constructed under this arrangement started in 1938, the Shand Dam on the Grand, and the federal Government's grant was 37½ per cent. Each time they have made a grant it has been in that amount. However, there is another clause in the act which states that if in the opinion of the Governor in Council the project is of major importance—somewhere somebody has to make that decision for the federal Government as to whether the project is of major importance—then the grant is made by the dominion Government under the Canada Water Conservation Act.

Senator HORNER: And the grant may be above 37½ per cent?

Mr. RICHARDSON: No, according to the act it cannot be, unless for some reason the federal Government changes its policy.

The CHAIRMAN: The federal Government has before the house now a bill with respect to rehabilitation and redevelopment. How will that fit in with this Ontario program? Will that provide for more assistance than you are giving at present?

Mr. RICHARDSON: I think it will fit in very well indeed.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): Should the word "legal" not be "constitutional"? Should it not be a constitutional obligation?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Maybe so. I am just an engineer and not a lawyer.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): I am a little confused about this.

Senator TAYLOR (*Norfolk*): There was some controversy in Norfolk with respect to conservation areas and the municipal council's responsibility for draining an area. Under the Municipal Drainage Act if property owners petition the municipal council I believe that the council must give them drainage for that area. However, this particular area of which I am thinking was within a conservation area where there was a basin for collecting water, and there was some question raised with respect to authority. Can you tell us who has the authority in a case such as that, the conservation area or the municipality?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Did you get that information from Munro Landon? He is quite a promoter of conservation in Norfolk county.

Senator TAYLOR (*Norfolk*): No, I did not, although Landon is a very good authority there. I got my information from the newspaper which carried a report on the question between the municipality and the conservation area.