

Water Resources Studies

to Canada; and the final report on the project is to be available to Canadians. Although assistance was not ultimately provided, it was suggested that Canadian observers might be hired to gather data. The Corps of Engineers then requested Ontario Provincial Police assistance in obtaining the names of Canadians living around the Lakes to act as observers.

[*English*]

Twenty-eight Canadians were contracted as observers in 1967-68, and 21 in 1968-69, at \$15 per month each. Two observers were provided by the Department of Lands and Forests, Ontario. The Corps of Engineers ended its data collection program on the Canadian portion of the lakes in November, 1969, and it now has no Canadian observers under contract.

• (2:20 p.m.)

The only work done by the Canadian observers was to report physical data on ice and weather conditions in the Canadian part of the Great Lakes basin. The observers were asked to obtain measurements of ice thickness, snow depth, slush depth and water levels below ice cover, and to provide the dates of changes in ice conditions, including first ice formation, complete freeze-over, beginning of thaw, end of thaw, and ice completely gone. They were also asked to note significant weather extremes such as snowfall, temperature, wind velocity and direction.

This ice survey is not connected in any way with the co-ordinated studies of northern Ontario water resources being done by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

On August 5, 1965, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario announced that studies of Ontario's northern water resources and related economic development would be undertaken by each government, and that these studies would be co-ordinated by the committee representing the two governments. This committee is known as the co-ordinating committee on northern Ontario water resources studies. Responsibility for the various elements of the studies is divided between the two governments. Responsibility for hydrologic and engineering studies required to attain these objectives has been divided between the division of water resources of the Ontario Water Resources Commission and the inland waters branch of the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Economic studies are the responsibility of the economic planning branch of the

Ontario Department of Treasury and Economics and the policy and planning branch of the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Other federal and provincial agencies are actively participating in this work, which has as its prime purpose the appraisal of these water resources for all foreseeable uses.

There has been and there is no participation in these studies by representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, nor by any other United States agency. No aspect of these studies contemplates the possibility of diversion or sale of water to the United States.

Full reports covering all of the northern Ontario water resources studies undertaken on this co-ordinated basis will be issued when complete, provided such issue is agreed to by the governments of Canada and of Ontario.

I emphasize and reiterate that no possibility of sale or diversion of water to the United States is contemplated by these studies.

[*Translation*]

The Grand Canal project is in no way related to either the ice survey or the co-ordinated studies which I have mentioned. It is a very general scheme promoted by a private company. It envisions the diversion of water from several rivers flowing into James and Hudson Bays to Lake Huron via the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers, Lake Nipissing and the French River.

[*English*]

The federal government is in no way involved in or related to such a scheme, and it cannot accept the responsibility for promotion of proposals by private firms. One of the associates of the private company promoting the Grand Canal project appeared before the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters on April 11, 1960 and presented a proposal now known as the Grand Canal project. On June 28, 1960, the committee reported that it had heard with interest from witnesses of the proposed Harricanaw River—Grand Canal—development project, but it felt there had been insufficient basic engineering evidence to come to any conclusion on this matter.

On May 19, 1961 the then Prime Minister referred to the above-noted committee report and said:

I would say to the hon. gentleman that various proposals for the diversion of water from the Hudson Bay and James Bay watershed have been con-