

Mr. A. T. PRINCE (*Department of Mines and Technical Surveys*): The question I gather refers to the general co-ordination of activities, rather than specifically the pollution activities.

Mr. FULTON: That is correct?

Mr. PRINCE: I am not prepared to comment on the co-ordination of the work other than the matter of pollution. There is the Canadian committee on water pollution that has been established sort of jointly under the Privy Council and our Department. This committee involves the co-ordination of programs relating to water pollution among the federal government departments that are concerned, specifically the Fisheries Research Board, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the International Joint Commission, the associate committee on water pollution research of N.R.C., and at the present time we are conferring with representatives from the Ontario Water Resources Commission. This has to do with program co-ordination in the field of water pollution. In the broader sense that you introduced the question, I do not feel that I am competent, Mr. Chairman, to say what measures are being taken toward co-ordination of these fifteen or eighteen agencies involved.

Mr. FULTON: Can anybody?

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps, Mr. Fulton, if the officials are not in a position to comment on that, this is a question that might be directed to the Minister himself when we return to Item 1 and have the Minister back before us.

Mr. FULTON: Perhaps Dr. Harrison could give me some information in the interim.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything, Dr. Harrison, you could add to what has already been said?

Mr. J. M. HARRISON (*Assistant Deputy Minister (Research) Department of Mines and Technical Surveys*): I think perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I might be able to clarify a little bit of Mr. Fulton's question, in that the principal source of investigations on water in the broad field is consolidated in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. There are no specialized aspects of the utilization and investigations of water which remain with other departments, you have enumerated a good many agencies. Many of these are of such specialized character that I doubt whether there would be much purpose served in combining them within this Department; certainly, however, the work needs to be co-ordinated. The Department of Health, for example, is specifically charged with the matter of pollution as far as human consumption of water is concerned, whether it is safe and potable and so on. This will probably remain as part of their responsibility because they have the statutory obligation to look after this sort of thing. There is, however, close co-ordination between our people and the Department of Health, so that we can use facilities that they have available for certain investigation works, and they can use facilities which we have available to carry out certain of theirs. These could be multiplied many times but just to emphasize again, the main over-all problems of the water resources of Canada are now, I think, within the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.