

I think this indicates that there may be a complementary responsibility. Therefore, the next step in our reasoning might be—what has been the practice? Well, in the case of the Fraser river, the practice so far has been the cooperation in the form of the Fraser river board, which is a joint financial responsibility of the two governments to study the basin. So far there has been no federal commitment beyond the study. However, as I indicated in my opening remarks, we do have a federal responsibility in connection with fish, navigation and those which deal with some aspects of agriculture, such as irrigation. So, on those three grounds, the federal government constitutionally has an interest in the Fraser river. But the two governments are moving very cautiously on this Fraser river board, not wanting to transgress on the rights of the one or the other. I think this is where the realm of common sense comes in. I hope the two governments can deal with this matter with the attitude in mind of cooperating for achieving for the people along that river basin its maximum benefits.

Now, that is one example. I do not want to get into other touchier fields in too much detail. However, another example was hinted at in my opening remarks—that in the days when the prairie provinces and the Northwest Territories were under the federal government it would have been simple to work out an over-all physical and economical study. However, we have decided today—and rightly so—that the resources within a provincial boundary belong to that province. However, obviously there is coming a pressure of population, both domestically and industrially, for the use of that water, which makes it mandatory for the three provincial governments concerned and the federal government to get down and see if they cannot work out some sort of a common sense solution to the difficulties which are not only on the horizon but are on our doorstep. The prairie provinces water board does have cases put before it and they do make allocations of the water of the Saskatchewan and Nelson system, but so far there has been no clear-cut division of the waters of that basin, nor do I think there has been any physical study of the river basin as a whole. Obviously, so far, there has been no economic study of the river basin as a whole, and this physical and economic study that is lacking concerns itself with agriculture, forests and the run-off from mountainsides, and the use of the water along the river. This is going to be one of the major problems which might cause dissension in western Canada, and the need is obvious for some form of cooperative and coordinated attack in order to arrive at common sense decisions on the use of water.

The situation in eastern Canada is not quite so complex because the waters of Ontario are pretty well controlled by the international waters which are under the International Joint Commission, the two governments, and by the province itself. But, I am sure that there are matters that may arise in the future between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and between the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario concerning the use of waters in their areas which cross provincial boundaries. There is cooperation at the present time between these three governments and, I trust, it will continue.

Now, in the case of the maritime area, you have rivers which cross provincial boundaries between Quebec and Labrador, and rivers that come out of Quebec and through the United States and into New Brunswick; that is an interprovincial and international problem.

So, generally speaking, with this pressure of population, with all its resulting needs, it seems evident that the time is here when committees like this one and, I hope, committees all across the country, will begin to look into this question of river basin study, or an overlapping study of regional studies of water resources in that area.

Mr. SLOGAN: I have a specific question in regard to soil erosion along the banks of the Red river. It is a navigable river, and the soil erosion arises