No. 61/2   BORDERS AND BRIDGES

> Speech by Mr. Donald Fleming, Minister
> of Finance, to the Economic Club of
> Chicago, February 14, 1961.

"...This occasion affords me a welcome and perhaps timely opportunity to discuss several matters of recent origin affecting Canadian-American relations. To state the fact in the simplest terms, Canada and the United States are the best neighbours in the world. We think the same thoughts about many matters, including the little things as well as the larger issues of international significance. We have no serious differences, and when difficulties arise we find it easy to discuss them together, and to resolve them amicably. It is in that spirit that I have come to discuss with you today certain economic questions affecting Canadian-American relations. In thus confining my remarks I take for granted the larger objectives of national and international policy on which we usually see alike.

Co-operation on Boundary Projects

Our two countries are linked by many ties of history, geography and economics. While we share a very long common boundary, we have no border disputes or fears of the old-fashioned type. These ended over 100 years ago. Today, our two countries are much more concerned, and properly so, with making plans to develop jointly some of the resources which lie along or run across our mutual border, particularly our boundary waters. It is not very long since our two countries joined in a co-operative plan to turn the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes into a vastly more modern transportation artery, and to harness the international section of the St. Lawrence River to produce electric power for the people of Ontario and New York State. These projects are an illustration of the kind of economic bridges we are throwing across our common border.

To mention an even more recent example, it just a few weeks since Prime Minister Diefenbaker and President Eisenhower met in Washington to pen their signatures to a