

Mr. BROWN: Our organization, like other survey companies, is in the field of preparing maps, planimetric, topographic soil, forest and other vegetation cover, drainage, etc.; and is equipped to assist land use studies. We could help by putting our services at the disposal of any such co-ordinating body that might be set up.

Senator BRADETTE: It would practically eliminate any outlay by the federal or provincial Governments as far as materials or aircraft are concerned. You could supply all that.

Mr. BROWN: I do not think we would necessarily eliminate all of that, but we are in a position where we could operate at a more reasonable cost. I do not think we can replace everything by any means, but we could co-operate and assist.

Senator BRADETTE: Have the provincial and federal Governments the same kind of equipment you have for the work you are doing at the present time?

Mr. BROWN: To a certain degree, but not entirely.

Senator BRADETTE: Not entirely?

Mr. BROWN: No. Some Government departments use our services a great deal, and other departments do not. As far as photography is concerned I think most departments which have use for it at certain times do use the air survey firms. These firms have the latest equipment and the labs which can turn out the volume at the time it is needed. As to the federal Government, most of the air survey work is tied up with the air force. They have a certain schedule of work to go through and they cannot take people off it and put them on land use or some other use for various Government departments.

Senator HORNER: What has always annoyed me is the matter of good agricultural land being used for industrial purposes. As you have described, the industries could be built up on poorer type soils which are of no use for agricultural purposes. I understand that the most expensive land in Canada is in the Niagara Peninsula, but it is gradually being bought up for industrial sites, and so on. The St. Lawrence Seaway gobbled up a great number of acres of good fertile land. The development of the Fraser River power site will take the best land in the Fraser Valley, of which there is a limited amount along the river. The same thing has happened in England. An awful lot of their good land has been used for building purposes. I saw one good thing that was done over there. We were taken to a huge steel plant in Wales, which was built up on soil that had been bulldozed up from the sea. The plant and, as a matter of fact, practically the whole town was built on this land that was entirely useless so far as agriculture is concerned.

Senator BRADETTE: On page 2 of your brief there is this paragraph:

"Our northern areas—within the Boreal Forest and Forest-Tundra transition—will, in all probability, be much more highly populated than at present. Aside from mining and hydro, the development required in these regions is not entirely one of agriculture".

I know the north country. I live in Cochrane and I was a pioneer in the area as far back as 1908. I have been a fur buyer in the Hudson Bay section and I know the tundra well. We have heard a lot of talk in the House of Commons and in the Senate of the wide open spaces of our northland on which we could establish thousands and thousands of people. I do not believe all that, for I know the tundra. I know the northern section. There are thousands and thousands of square miles there on which there will never be any living person. I know that for a positive fact and you know that too as a result of your surveys.

Mr. BROWN: Yes, I know.