

Mr. PATTERSON: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that a major action which is being taken along that line is this study of the Saskatchewan-Nelson river drainage basin. The NAWAPA scheme as it was presented by the Parsons Company held out great promise to the prairie provinces for added supply of water for that area. Under the Saskatchewan-Nelson study we will determine exactly how much water they do have in the prairie provinces, how much can be added from the close by tributaries of the Mackenzie River and whether there is any need to import water from the Yukon. I think this is a very necessary study. If it was ever decided to go ahead with the NAWAPA study, this study of the Saskatchewan River drainage is an essential thing in that much large scheme.

Mr. DAVIS: If you had more money available could more work be done or is it limited by personnel?

Mr. PATTERSON: This is with respect to the Saskatchewan River study?

Mr. DAVIS: The Saskatchewan-Nelson and the Mackenzie studies. I think all of us feel that there is a real urgency in this problem but that we must counter it in some way with a Canadian proposal. Would additional grants to your department, recommendations from this Committee, or some such thing, improve your situation or are we limited by personnel?

Mr. PATTERSON: Well, personnel to conduct these studies is going to be a major obstacle. The estimates which we have prepared for this current year were designed to carry out the work which we thought that could be accomplished in the year. Our estimates for the next year will to a partial extent, at least, be based on what progress we have been able to make this year and what there are in the way of personnel to carry out the study I do not know that additional funds in this year would help us get farther along with the study. We have not got our people into the field yet.

Mr. AIKEN: Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

Mr. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a supplementary precisely on this point.

The CHAIRMAN: A brief supplementary on this point?

Mr. DAVIS: Yes. There is an impression abroad that the NAWAPA scheme financed by the United States, and so on, has been a very intensive and thorough one; that it requires a massive number of manhours of staff to duplicate it or do anything like it; what is your impression of the degree of thoroughness with which the NAWAPA people went into their particular proposal?

Mr. PATTERSON: Well, my impression of that, and I think the Department people would agree, is that they have not made an intensive study, they have only looked at maps and from maps have indicated routes. They have not had people in the field. They do not know anything about the conditions other than one can tell from looking at maps.

Mr. DAVIS: In other words, this is the type of thing that your staff could do if it had to in a comparatively short period of time. I am begging the question whether you would ever do this, but if you had to do it.