

APPENDIX III

Examination of the 1962 Cabinet Guidelines

The guidelines governing international bridges, approved by Cabinet on January 26, 1962, were drawn up with specific problems in mind and were designed to prevent a repetition of these problems. However, while the establishment of guidelines represented an attempt to bring some order into a chaotic situation, the guidelines themselves were somewhat sketchy and could not be described as a clearly defined policy, and the time may now have come when they should either be revised or abandoned. In this appendix, each guideline is critically examined and its appropriateness measured in terms of current political and social attitudes, and in relation to Ontario's proposal for an overall bridge authority directly operating some bridges and regulating the activities of others.

- a) The bridge shall be constructed and operated by an authority that is genuinely public in its character.

This guideline does not preclude ownership and operation of a bridge by the Federal or Provincial Governments or by a municipality, and indeed this is the norm along the New Brunswick and Quebec borders with the U.S.A. However, the larger scale of bridge requirements along the Ontario border has made government reluctant to involve itself financially, and the Government of Ontario appears to regard its involvement in the Pigeon River Bridge as an aberration.

The wording of the guideline is something less than explicit, since no definition is offered of the phrase "an authority that is genuinely public in its character". It would seem that when the guidelines were being drawn up, the general feeling was that any form of government entity was undesirable and that the ideal would be some form of independent non-profit-making body, and indeed the.