

The CHAIRMAN: Are they supplementary?

Mr. DAVIS: —supplementary and are directed to this same area. Of all the departments or branches in government which is the one which could be expected to prepare an estimate, let us say, of Canada's total water supply, rough as this may be? Who would prepare that estimate?

Mr. PATTERSON: I would think it would be the water resources branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Mr. DAVIS: And this is obviously a very rough approximation which is refined as you get more data?

Mr. PATTERSON: That is correct.

Mr. DAVIS: Would it be right to say that in your surveys or in your measurements you are carrying out functions similar to say the topographical survey which is intensively covering certain parts of the country and very roughly others, but eventually will cover the country and eventually will have much better data. Is this the way it is—

Mr. PATTERSON: That is correct.

Mr. DAVIS: So that you have better information in some areas than in others?

Mr. PATTERSON: That is correct.

Mr. DAVIS: You have rough estimates even in the gaps, if this is necessary.

Mr. PATTERSON: That is right.

The CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, Mr. Aiken, if you would, please. Before some of you came in to the meeting today I did outline a suggested procedure which had been followed in some of the other committees which I have attended, namely that there be a first round of questioning and those members wanting to ask questions at that time would so indicate to the Chairman, and the Chairman would permit supplementary questions which were directly on the point. But the wish of the Committee in all places was that the supplementary questions be as concise and brief as possible so as not to interfere with other memberse asking questions. So if you do have a supplementary on the point, Mr. Aiken—

Mr. AIKEN: I do have a supplementary which will be very brief and to the point but it may not be so easy to answer.

The CHAIRMAN: That is not your responsibility.

Mr. AIKEN: No. Mr. Patterson, I presume you are well aware of the NAWAPA plan, the North American Water and Power Alliance project that has gained a great deal of prominence in the United States, and is now being promoted in Canada by the Parsons Company. Your department is well aware of this plan.

Mr. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. AIKEN: Is any action being taken to counter this proposal with a purely Canadian development, a purely Canadian approach to such a vast water diversion scheme?