

THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE IN CANADA

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Thursday, May 11, 1961.

The Special Committee on Land Use met this day at 11.00 a.m.

Senator Arthur M. Pearson (Chairman) in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, it is just after 11 o'clock, and we have a quorum. We are very pleased to have with us this morning Mr. A. H. Richardson. Mr. Richardson is Chief Conservation Engineer, Department of Commerce and Development, Province of Ontario. We have with us as one of our guests this morning, Mr. H. K. Scott, who comes from Alberta. He is employed in Ottawa with the Department of Agriculture, Economics Division, and has been with the federal Government for some time.

We also have with us Mr. Fujio Nozumi, who is from Japan. He is Research Secretary, Committee on Communications, House of Councillors, the National Diet of Japan. He is here as a visitor and wants to see just what we are doing.

The document which is now being distributed, honourable senators, is a summary of the large brief which you have. Is it your wish to have the large brief printed as an appendix to today's proceedings? It might be of interest to those who receive the reports of the proceedings of this committee.

Senator STAMBAUGH: I notice that there are many pictures, and the brief is not as large as I first thought.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, the pictures will not be reproduced.

For text of brief presented by Ontario Department of Commerce and Development, Conservation Branch, see Appendix p. 298.

Mr. A. H. Richardson, Chief Conservation Engineer, Department of Commerce and Development, Province of Ontario: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators: Conservation has long been a subject of concern to the people of Ontario. This concern had to do originally with the protection of forests because of their importance as a source of revenue; but allied with this were the problems of wildlife management and the protection of source areas of rivers and streams. In Southern Ontario interest in conservation was indicated first by reforestation and woodlot management, but more recently this has broadened out to include flood control and water conservation, improved land use and recreation areas.

While the progress in these activities has been steady up to the present, most of the programs heretofore were initiated by government departments. Recently, however, there has been a growing conception of personal obligation, especially where land use problems, farm ponds and small reforestation projects are concerned. On the other hand, control of flooding and increased summer flow and large reforestation projects have come to be considered the responsibility of the community—the community, in this case, being the river valley or the watershed drained by a river and its tributaries.

With the advent of this new concept of personal and community responsibility in conservation, the Authorities movement was born, and the willingness of our people to undertake conservation in this way is indicated by the rapid progress made in establishing Authorities in the last fourteen years.