

certain aspects of the proposed arrangements when we were in Opposition. We have been most anxious to take account of any informed comments or suggestions made to us. I myself have read the extensive correspondence which has taken place with individual Canadians, much of it favourable and some of it critical. Also, since coming into office I have met for lengthy discussions with several of the principal critics. Those discussions produced various ideas, all of which have been carefully considered and many of which are reflected in the new arrangements.

I also welcomed the opportunity last August to visit the Columbia River Basin. Even though my time there was all too short, I, along with some of my colleagues, managed to travel by air over virtually the whole length of the River and to visit many localities on the ground on both sides of the border. During that visit I learned something of the diverse views held on the subject in different parts of the region. I was particularly impressed by the general desire to have the matter settled and the uncertainty ended, in order that the people living there could plan confidently for the future.

At long last we have concluded arrangements which I am satisfied are the best that can be negotiated. I am also sure that these arrangements will be highly beneficial to Canada, will fully protect our interests and will enable work to proceed this year.