

capability of his staff to meet, and it is only with a great deal of regret, sir, that he has to advise myself and eventually the Deputy Minister that in the present context this demand cannot be met with the facilities he has now available. We hope to develop as best we can an improved capability in this direction but I am afraid, sir, it will be many years before we can meet without any reservation all the requirements for increased charting in the country.

Mr. ANDRAS: Well, as far as that particular request is concerned, I was sympathetic to your problems, when I got the answer, but I was using it here in the context of jurisdictional definition. I was interested when at the beginning of your reply you said that it should be a federal responsibility. Does this suggest that it is not so defined clearly? Is there a lack of definition of federal and provincial jurisdiction in this matter? Is it sort of a muddy area?

Mr. CAMERON: No. I would say that there is no jurisdictional problem here, sir. I think it is a matter more deciding in which direction one should put the emphasis, whether to concentrate primarily on meeting demands of commercial requirements of transport as a federal responsibility or those demands which stem from recreational aspects. In this latter respect, I feel that perhaps the urgency of the former takes priority; that is, the importance of improving our charts in so far as they apply to commercial navigation.

Mr. ANDRAS: Has there been any new conference or negotiation or anything else, a really serious attempt to define that this particular aspect of hydrographic survey and so forth is provincial because of the application when it is done, and this is federal?

Mr. CAMERON: No, there has been no conference of this type nor has there been a suggestion that such a conference is required. I would say that on the part of the provinces there is a clear understanding that this is a federal responsibility. It is a matter on the part of the federal authorities to decide how to allocate their efforts to these various demands on their charting capabilities.

Mr. ANDRAS: Fine. Throughout this discussion this morning and again arising from the reply I got in that particular local request, the theme of the shortage of skilled staff, qualified staff, to carry out this what appears to be a colossal undertaking as it unfolds in the future, keeps arising. What is the source for trained personnel in this area?

Mr. CAMERON: The source is not very evident. Hydrography because of its very nature, demanding long periods away from home, is not proving an attractive occupation to those kinds of people whom we would like to attract; in other words, skilled engineers for which there is a tremendous demand. We have in the past few years attempted, and I think we are proceeding rather successfully, to recruit young men either from technical institutes with a certain amount of background in the fundamentals of surveying, or even from high schools, and effectively training them ourselves in this particular skill so that the source is not clearly definable. It is that wealth of young technical capability which we want to tap, unfortunately in competition with many other areas which are similarly trying to draw this capability into their own specialties. So,