

Mr. PATTERSON: That is right. It was conceived by the Parsons Company of Los Angeles.

Mr. HOPKINS: You have recently, I believe, had requests from the Upper Ottawa Valley Tourist Association and the Eastern Ontario Development Association and others requesting charting of the Ottawa River. What stage is it at now? Is there a possibility this is going to happen? Is there any indication this is going ahead?

The CHAIRMAN: Dr. Cameron.

Mr. CAMERON: Mr. Chairman, the same situation applies to the charting of the Ottawa River as did to the earlier question of Lake Nipigon: A tremendous backlog of demands of various types extending from various sources, and completely inadequate staff, I am afraid I will have to suggest that certainly for the foreseeable future it will be difficult to embark on a charting program on the upper Ottawa.

Mr. HOPKINS: One last question. I notice in the discussion on the water levels in the great lakes, and also mentioning the NAWAPA scheme, nothing was said about the possible recycling of water from James Bay into the Ottawa River. I understand that there might possibly be some people in the department who are favourable to this, and some who are not. Could I hear some of the objections to this particular scheme at this time?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that all, Mr. Hopkins?

Mr. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is the scheme referred to as the grand canal—

Mr. HOPKINS: That is right.

Mr. PATTERSON:—which has received a great deal of publicity and stimulates a great deal of opposition as to its feasibility.

Mr. FULTON: Just for information, is that the scheme with which an engineer by the name of Kierans was identified?

Mr. PATTERSON: Kierans, yes, sir. I have talked to a great many engineers with respect to this scheme. I think possibly I am one of the more moderate ones, in those who condemn the scheme as feasible. I am prepared to concede, and I am speaking personally, that at some time in the future there may be some merit in this proposal, but I cannot see the merit in plunging into it at the present time. I think that the government has taken the needed and essential steps which will in the long run contribute to a knowledge of any merit this scheme may have, in that on the great lakes study that is going forward under the International Joint Commission, efforts are being made to devise a method of controlling the levels of the great lakes as nature provides the supply. Certainly in the past we have not had such a control just dealing with nature's supply. In 1951-52, there was tremendous damage created around the Great lakes, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage property destroyed, and in 1964 we had very low waters and nothing could be done about it to remedy the situation.