

presentation suggested that the proposed arrangement would help to solve the various problems which already exist in relation to international bridges, but this is questionable. The proposed Authority might provide an effective arrangement for future management, but since most of the Ontario international bridges do not revert under present arrangements until the last decade of this century at the earliest, the opportunities for direct control are limited, and the effectiveness of the proposed Authority would depend on the regulatory powers allowed to it by the Federal Government and on the extent to which the latter would be prepared to revise existing legislation relating to individual bridges.

Since the problems of international bridges have been with us for some considerable time without noticeably affecting the provision of services, the question might be raised as to whether there is any element of urgency in the matter of finding a possible solution. Of course, some degree of urgency has been created by the fact that the Government of Ontario has raised the issue, and a firm reaction to their proposal cannot be unduly delayed. However, regardless of the provincial initiative, there are other reasons for suggesting that unless it is prepared to abandon any significant interest in international bridge matters, the Federal Government needs to take positive action on a general scale fairly soon. Controversial matters now coming before the Interdepartmental Committee on International Bridges have revealed the weakness of attempting to control private bridge activity on the basis of unpublished guidelines, and the difficulty of taking a firm stand against bridge authorities which have already involved themselves in expensive developments in contravention of the guidelines. As a minimum, the Federal Government should clearly occupy this legislative field and place itself in a position to enforce compliance with its policy. The need for prompt action is emphasized by the fact that within the next few years there could be several major developments and