

Rather than proceed on this course, however, Canada would much prefer ratification of the 1941 agreement. The reason for this preference has little to do with the sharing of the cost. If the costs not borne by power are to be covered by tolls on shipping, it becomes of much less consequence who makes the initial expenditures, and Canada is quite capable of handling any necessary financing. The main reason for the preference is simply that work could start almost immediately after ratification. Any other procedure involves a new series of legal and engineering preparations, formal and informal consultations, perhaps public hearings, and other formalities which might easily take up a year or two.

On the other hand, we already have a ten-year record of looking for ratification "next year". Time is now running out. Each additional year of delay costs us more dearly in money and security. Failing early ratification, therefore, the Canadian Government has decided to undertake the so-called all-Canadian seaway, and to invite the necessary co-operation with respect to an international power development. We can still hope for ratification of the 1941 agreement, but meanwhile we are preparing a second string to our bow.

It has been suggested in some irresponsible quarters that the Canadian proposal was a bluff, that Canada could not and would not undertake such a large project alone. I trust that the official announcement will put an end to that kind of talk. There is no bluff about Canada's attitude. We would need and would seek the co-operation of a designated agency in the United States to develop the international power. With that, we can and will complete the other essential works in the St. Lawrence River.

In conclusion, I would like to sum up the Canadian position in a very few words.

We in Canada want to see the St. Lawrence project completed at the earliest possible date. We believe that it is important for our mutual economic development and urgent for national defence. We believe not merely that it can pay its own way, but that the benefits to both Canada and the United States will far outweigh its original cost.

We would prefer to have full United States' participation in the project under the terms of the 1941 agreement, providing the agreement is to be ratified at an early date. Failing that, however, Canada will now actively proceed to undertake the project.

S/A