

Federal Government to finance and construct a bridge and to recover its investment by levying tolls. In most cases, a Canadian bridge entity was created in the initial stage and although this was frequently little more than a legal device, the Canadian Government was in a position to supervise operations in Canada. However, the legislation authorizing bridge construction usually gave the U.S. bridge entity the right to absorb its Canadian counterpart, and when this took place, Canadian control over bridge activities became almost non-existent. Nevertheless, there was usually a provision that at some point in time, the Canadian part of the bridge would revert to Canada. The main problems have arisen in connection with the nature of the present operating authority and with the terms of reversion.

Only minor difficulties have been encountered in connection with international bridges in New Brunswick and Quebec since the bridges between these two provinces and the U.S.A. are fairly small spans, and, for the most part, of purely local interest. In view of the small size of these bridges, the relatively low-cost of construction and maintenance and the fact that light traffic flows are generally insufficient to justify the collection of tolls, it is probable that direct Government involvement is the only practical method of dealing with them, and the types of problems which have affected Ontario bridges are unlikely to arise. Indeed, the only potential problems appear to stem from the fact that in some cases, bridges were built without proper approval being obtained from the Federal Government, or from the failure to establish formal agreements between the provinces and the States of Maine and Vermont on the sharing of maintenance costs. Gentleman's agreements have for the present overcome these potential problems, but they have not been eliminated.

It might be argued that the problems of international bridges in Ontario have been exaggerated since they do not appear to interfere with the service being provided by the bridges, in