

trying to get the picture—being initiated in response to either immediate requests from provinces or a judgment which you make at the time as to where you should next move? Is that the picture rather than it being an overall five year or ten year or staged plan of study.

Mr. PATTERSON: I think that the former more nearly answers what is actually taking place. It is impossible for us to lay down a five year plan or a ten year plan and adhere to that plan because new requirements are taking place well within areas that we at one time thought were adequately covered?

Mr. FULTON: It then would have to be flexible, I am sure that is the art of administration, but would it be feasible from the point of view of planning to work out such a staged program? It might have to be varied as questions arise.

Mr. PATTERSON: We do endeavour to lay down five-year programs but we have not been able to adhere to what we thought at the start of the five year program. It has had to vary with the demands that have arisen from other thoughts than our own.

Mr. FULTON: Do you have a five year program to which you are working, and have you revised it from time to time? Do you have a five year program?

Mr. PATTERSON: We are required in the Department in connection with our estimates—Treasury Board requires that we develop a five year program with respect to our expenditures on our work.

Mr. DAVIS: May I cut in, Mr. Chairman, in order to help to try and get the picture. First, even if you took measurements on all Canadian streams and rivers this year, could you say that you knew all you wanted to know about them, if you had sufficient resources to do this, or does it take decades before you really know what the resources are on any particular stream or river?

Mr. PATTERSON: That is quite correct. It takes years of records before you know what resource you have and the fact that we move into one area one year does not mean that you then leave that area and go to another. You have to keep the gauges that you instal and the meterings that you are making have to be continued.

Mr. FULTON: I am aware, Mr. Patterson—

Mr. DAVIS: Could I just ask the same question—

Mr. FULTON: Well, no, because I think we are just getting at cross purposes here. I am perfectly aware that you do not make a study and then say that is it, fixed and immovable for all time. You have to keep your study going, but I am talking about a program by which you would have taken the necessary steps to get information coming in all across Canada. Now, the steps which would have to be continued is a matter of practical administration. I realize you do not move into an area and move out. You put up stations and you put in measuring devices and then that information continues to come in and you revise from time to time as further information comes—I am not being stupid enough to suggest that you move in for a year and then you have done everything that has to be done in that area. I am talking about a forward moving program so that