



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE SHERMAN ADAMS,  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Re: St. Lawrence Seaway

This is with reference to your memorandum to me of January 31, 1953, with which you transmitted copies of S. 589 and H.J. Res 104, 83d Cong., 1st sess., and a memorandum from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Association with respect to them. You requested that I review the memorandum and the proposed legislation and give you my suggestions.

Proposals to build a ship canal in the St. Lawrence River, which would open the Great Lakes to ocean shipping, and, in conjunction therewith, a hydroelectric power project have a long history. In recent years such proposals have been referred to as the "St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project." For the purposes of this memorandum a description of the history of the proposals is not necessary, but it may be pointed out that development of the Seaway and Power Project has been recommended by every President from Coolidge to Truman, and that at various times since 1933 committees of the Congress have held extensive hearings on the subject. The project has been strenuously urged by groups interested in the development of hydroelectric power in the area and