

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

methods have been developed in recent years—more economic methods and systems of capturing the enormous electric energy potential of such basins as the Bay of Fundy.

By implication, and without referring directly to the tidal program study which was carried out a year or so ago in this country, the report suggests that the engineering and economic models which had then to be used were based on information which was probably eight or ten years old, in some cases considerably older than that.

In short, the report suggests that in very recent years, indeed, in the last 18-24 months, new methods have been developed for the harnessing of tidal systems and tidal rivers which are considerably more economic than in the past. In this connection we are bound, of course, to take the pollution-free aspect of tidal developments into account, as well as the basic cheapness of the energy provided by the rise and fall of the tides. Accordingly, the report calls upon governments at all levels to review the economics of development and harnessing tidal power.

There is in the Maritime provinces an all-party committee which crosses all political lines—it even embraces gentlemen from the other chamber who are interested. The single purpose of this committee is to further the application of the new economics of scale which attach themselves to the harnessing of tidal power so that we may take advantage in Atlantic Canada of the tremendous energy of the tides in the Bay of Fundy. I want to draw the attention of hon. members to the unanimity of opinion on this subject. I want to say that the Village of Gunningsville wholeheartedly supports—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Forrestall:** I knew my whip would be interested in that one—I did not single it out, it just happens to be at the top of a list of 50 or 60 towns, cities and villages in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick which have indicated their support. Their interest is no less than that expressed by the Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury who wishes the undertaking every success, as do Bridgetown, Middleton and Truro. The municipality of the District of West Hants requests the earliest possible development of Fundy power, a sentiment which is shared by Lunenburg, Douglastown, New Brunswick and the Municipality of King's County, Nova Scotia. King's County placed their seal on the resolution they forwarded, making it official. The Town of Digby, situated on the Annapolis Basin, virtually on top of the greatest source of energy in the world, has formally passed a resolution in favour of the development of Fundy power.

● (3:10 p.m.)

Then, I have a resolution from the town of Wolfville, another eminent, very old town situated on the shores of the Bay of Fundy. I have others from the village of Hillsborough, in Albert county, New Brunswick; the town of Pictou, the town of Stewiacke, the town of Bridgewater, the village of Port Elgin and the town of Parrsboro. These communities are all in the area of this

[Mr. Forrestall.]

energy resource, and all are concerned that this development be proceeded with.

I have other resolutions from the village of Fredericton Junction; from Dalhousie, New Brunswick; from the town of Tracadie, New Brunswick; from Halifax—

**Mr. Bell:** Where is that?

**Mr. Forrestall:** This is the city of Halifax which lies across the river from Dartmouth. I have another from the municipality of the county of Halifax and one from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. All of these towns are in either of the two provinces. If you were to read these resolutions supporting a review of this project, Mr. Chairman, you would find a wide variety of comments. One of these towns, I cannot recall which now, passed a resolution in 1921, 50 years ago, which it forwarded to the then representative of the community in this chamber with a view to getting someone to show some interest in the tremendous potential of the Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy tides.

I have another resolution from the municipality of the county of Queens; one from the municipality of East Hants; and another from the village of Nackawic, in the county of York, New Brunswick. There are others from the town of Kentville, the town of Annapolis Royal, the town of Trenton, the village of Lewisville, New Brunswick, from Yarmouth, the village of Dorchester, the town of Windsor, the town of Berwick, the village of North Head on Grand Manan, which is in the middle of the Bay of Fundy, from the town of Sussex, from Fredericton, and from the village of Hampton, New Brunswick. All of these resolutions recognize the importance of an immediate thrust by all levels of government to implement on a properly planned basis a project to harness the tides of the Bay of Fundy.

In the Nova Scotia legislature the other day the premier of the province, the Hon. Gerald Regan, introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a corporation along the lines of the Sydney Steel Corporation—SISCO, as it is commonly known—to be funded with \$10 million for the purpose of pursuing means of harnessing and developing the Bay of Fundy tides. I welcome this announcement by the premier of the province because this step is a good one. Unfortunately, there is some uncertainty and confusion as to how this \$10 million is going to be spent and how the proposed corporation is going to be established. No answer has been given to such questions as whether or not the elected representatives of the area most directly concerned will have any say in the methods that are to be followed.

In this respect, it is with no hesitation at all that I commend to the minister and members of this committee the private member's bill placed on the Order Paper by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley which sets forth, in terms that are quite acceptable to all hon. members, an initial form of development process. The hon. member's will recognizes the necessity for a permanent secretariat. It recognizes the necessity for a broadly based board of directors. In this regard, it recognizes the validity of political participation in the body that will initially