

Supply—Northern Affairs

are determined under international agreement, but that details are worked out in the provinces themselves.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would take advantage of the visit next week to bring this matter up in the highest quarters with the President of the United States to see whether the necessary consent could be obtained so that Newfoundlanders could exercise their ancient rights.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fact I discussed this matter in a preliminary way at a relatively high level—not quite at the summit—with the secretary for the interior who was in Ottawa during the early part of this week. All the international aspects of the problems involved regarding the migratory bird conventions were discussed. I realize that migratory birds are becoming increasingly important and, because the treaty goes back to 1916, I believe, it is felt the time has come for some streamlining and modernization.

Item agreed to.

Water resources branch—

291. Administration, operation and maintenance, including Canada's share of the expenses of the international executive council, world power conference, and authority to make recoverable advances in amounts not exceeding in the aggregate the amount of the shares of the province of Manitoba and of the province of Ontario of the cost of regulating the levels of Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul and the amount of the shares of provincial and outside agencies of the cost of hydro-metric surveys, \$1,754,455.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, on vote 291 I feel I ought at least very briefly to press the minister a little further regarding this question which, as he knows, is regarded in Manitoba as a matter of utmost importance. I refer to what is to be done on the Red river floodway, which we were told in the speech from the throne was to be embarked upon this year. It seems to me that once this item is passed there will be no other occasion, under the rules of the house, to speak on this subject, unless the government itself brings forward some legislation or other measure in this regard.

I do not want to hold up the minister's estimates or delay their passage in any way, but this will be a very big project. It is not a small matter at all. I am sure the minister knows that I am very pleased regarding the small project which has been undertaken on the Fairford river. I have had a great deal of personal interest in this situation over the years. I do not mean personal interest in any monetary sense because, I am sorry to have to say, I do not own a square inch of land in Manitoba, nor have I any interest in any.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

However, I was raised alongside lake Manitoba and realize how important it is that the level of that lake should be properly regulated.

This is a very small part of a big program for the protection of metropolitan Winnipeg against flooding. I am not going to labour this question, because I realize the minister is familiar with the problems and it is conceivable that he knows more about it than I do. However, the provincial legislature prorogued without anyone in that legislature being able to find out from the government of Manitoba when this matter was going to be brought to a conclusion. By next week six months will have passed since the speech from the throne was read in the other place. When this project was considered to be of sufficient urgency at that time to be mentioned in that speech from the throne surely it is about time the government told us precisely what it intends to do, and particularly—and this is the most important factor—what the cost sharing formula will be.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, there is very little I can add on this subject to what I said during consideration of the first item. This matter is going forward, and a committee of engineers from the government of Manitoba and from our own department has been formed to consider the engineering aspect of the matter. The engineering data will, of course, be available when negotiations are completed with respect to the financing terms, and that is the only part of the whole project which remains to be settled.

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister says the financial division is the only part of the project that remains to be settled. Does that mean the two governments are completely agreed upon the nature of the scheme to be carried forward; that there is no longer any difference of any kind, in other words that the whole of the engineering details are settled? I do not mean the details of construction, but that the plan is definitely agreed upon?

Mr. Dinsdale: I can assure the hon. member for Bonaville-Twilligate that there is general agreement on the engineering aspect of the problem. No doubt, however, there will be some amendments resulting from the report of the committee of engineers which is now giving consideration to the project.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the minister say what effect the carrying out of this project will have on the St. Andrews rapids and the locks there?

Mr. Dinsdale: I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether this is in the original engineering data; I have not studied the engineering report in detail, but I can assure the hon. member