

The Address—Mr. Crouse

appear that we are still too dependant upon forms of employment which do not offer good prospects of growth.

It is evident that we in Nova Scotia must continue to modernize our economy. We must emphasize the importance of Nova Scotians changing with the times. To do this we need help at all levels, both federal and provincial. For these reasons I wish to make some proposals which I hope will have the support of the federal government and which will be beneficial to the people of the Atlantic provinces and to Canadians as a whole.

A visit to the French pavilion at Expo '67 is an exciting experience at any time for anyone. However, in my opinion, one of the outstanding exhibits is the detailed description of the hydro power development through the use of the high tides near the river Rance in Brittany. I would suggest that anyone who has any doubts about the feasibility of generating electricity in this manner should take time to study the French exhibit. I believe that if members of the present government followed this course, steps would be taken to speed up the engineering studies and the development of the tidal power potential of the bay of Fundy. It is my understanding that a study is planned by some nine companies, but it is estimated this survey will take some two years to complete at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. While this study is welcome news, I cannot help but express regret over the delays during the past four years in starting this survey. Studies of Fundy power development were to be undertaken, away back in 1963, under the Atlantic Development Board. In fact, one of the main reasons for the establishment of the board was to carry out tidal power development if feasibility studies justified it. All the preliminary work at that time indicated that it was an investment that would offer immense rewards.

I ask this government, why the delay? Why is it dragging its feet on this project? The tides at the eastern end of the bay of Fundy rise 40 to 50 feet, day in and night out, carrying a 60 million horsepower potential in a six and one half hour period between high and low tide. Even 10 per cent of this is almost twice the total power capacity in Canada today, and even this small portion of recovery would make this the largest single power development in the world.

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, why is the government dragging its feet? It is possible that the joint findings of the nine companies recently appointed will confirm the belief long held by

experts that tidal power installations in the area could produce power at a price to compete favourably at the present time with nuclear energy. But I would point out that the cost of nuclear power is bound to escalate, because the prices of raw materials and wages are certain to increase over the years. However, in the case of tidal power, once the initial capital investment is made, the amount of manpower required to maintain the operation is small, and the motive power is provided forever by the sea.

According to the speech from the throne the government is concerned about inflation, and with good reason. It does not say so directly, but there can be no other meaning to the paragraph on page 2 of *Hansard* of May 8 which reads as follows:

Today relations among industry, labour and governments at all levels are taking on a new significance. To maintain and improve Canada's economic strength it is necessary to exercise wisdom and restraint in our demands upon one another; to show a high degree of co-operation and a sense of responsibility in dealing with each other and with our respective institutions, including all levels of government.

On page 5 the words are a little different, but indirectly they imply a concern over inflation. They read:

In the highly complex society of today, the interests of the consumer must be taken fully into account in the formulation of government policy. It is abundantly clear that in the whole area of matters affecting the investor and the consumer, the federal government has special obligations arising out of its general responsibility for the economic well-being of the nation as a whole.

These are high sounding phrases, but I say this to the government: If it wants to do something for the benefit of the Atlantic provinces, it should proceed immediately with tidal power development. This power would afford the best possible protection against inflation. Once it has been developed, the price of power becomes constant and operating costs are constant. The ebb and flow of the tides, properly harnessed, provides on conversion very cheap and economical power, with the cost factor stabilized.

Think of what this would mean to future generations. The government's present fiscal policies are causing Canadians outside and inside the present cabinet to call out in dismay. They are saying to this government that in times of so-called prosperity it has a responsibility to bring revenues and expenditures into balance. Surely we can pass on to our children something permanent besides our debts, which are looming high and stand as a monument to this government's inability