

*Atlantic Provinces Power Development*

**Mr. Lesage:** That is what we said last spring.

Lest you may think, Mr. Speaker, that my passing reference to developments of this kind in other parts of Canada is taking a little too long for a passing reference, may I point out that in the bill which the government has presented to parliament it is indicated to us that the interests of the federal government will be looked after by the northern Canada power commission and by the dominion coal board. We have heard a good deal in the house about the dominion coal board and I did not have to look that up to see what that was all about. But I confess that when I first saw the reference to the northern Canada power commission I wondered for a moment just where I had heard of it before, for it rang at least a little bell.

I began to look for it. I looked in the index to the Revised Statutes of Canada but I could not find "northern Canada power commission". I looked in the current year's estimates and in the index I did find a reference to the northern Canada power commission. That item in the index led me to page 87 of the current estimates where I found that the previous government brought in last year an estimate of \$6,500,000 for the work of the northern Canada power commission under the provisions of the Northern Canada Power Commission Act.

Having seen that item in the estimates, I was convinced that there must be a Northern Canada Power Commission Act and I wondered why it was I could not find it in the index to the Revised Statutes of Canada. I started looking in a number of the annual volumes of the statutes of Canada and I still could not find in any index any reference to the Northern Canada Power Commission Act. I confess this intrigued me and I kept pursuing the matter. Finally, since I could not find it myself, I did what any intelligent member of parliament would do, I went to the library and asked our friends there if they knew where to find it.

It took our friends in the library a little while, but they found it. Just as the mounted police always get their man, the library staff always find what they are asked to obtain. In due course the riddle was solved. I was advised to look at chapter 42 of the statutes of 1956 in which, by virtue of section 1, the title of the former Northwest Territories Power Commission Act was changed to the Northern Canada Power Commission Act.

As I say, the riddle was solved. I found why it was not in the index. But I found also something else that greatly interested me. I found that there is already on the statute books legislation which might be even better than the legislation now being introduced by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I found that, according to the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, we had at that time the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act which set up the Northwest Territories power commission for the purpose of looking after power developments in Yukon and in the Northwest Territories but nowhere else. This fact led me to wonder how this northern Canada power commission, if its functions were limited to Yukon and the Northwest Territories, could take on this job in the Atlantic provinces. But I discovered by comparing chapter 196 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, with the amending act, namely chapter 42 of the statutes of 1956, that by virtue of that amendment the powers and functions of the former Northwest Territories power commission, when changed to the northern Canada power commission, were extended to give that commission power to look after electric power projects, not only in Yukon and the Northwest Territories but, subject to provincial law, in any province of Canada.

There it is, Mr. Speaker. We already have on the statute books legislation providing a public authority, the northern Canada power commission with the power to develop power projects in Yukon and in the Northwest Territories or, subject to the laws of a province, in any province of Canada. I was interested, however, in making further comparisons between the legislation that is now on the statute books and this bill that has been brought in by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. In particular I discovered that in the original act, and in the amending act, it is clearly stated that power projects include electrical energy produced by hydraulic, electrical, steam or internal combustion engines or by gas, oil or any other process. It includes also thermal energy in the form of steam, hot water or hot air produced by any process for heating buildings or for domestic use or for any commercial or manufacturing enterprise or industrial process. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we already have on the statute books of Canada legislation setting up under the federal government a public authority which has power to develop power projects anywhere in Canada, provided that if it is within a province it has to be subject to the laws of the province.

The commission also has power to develop power either by thermal projects or by hydraulic projects or any other kind. In other words, hon. members will see that what we have on the statute books already in these two respects is broader than the legislation