

This precipitated a long difference of opinion between these provinces and the federal government. This political difference was resolved in 1930 by the passage of the Natural Resources Transfer Act which gave to the two provinces their natural resources.

Previously, in British Columbia, there had been an order reserving the general resources for the federal government along the railway belt. But Ottawa turned them back to the province of British Columbia in 1912 and 1913. That is the background as far as the western provinces are concerned with respect to natural resources.

In the eastern provinces, under the British North America Act there was listed under the various sections the powers of each of the original joiners of Confederation, and that is why they never had this difficulty with the federal government which existed with respect to Alberta and Saskatchewan and the federal government particularly.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Does this agreement set out to what degree the federal government will participate in the development of those resources?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): No, it just says which powers the provinces have and which powers the federal government has, and that residual powers belong to the federal government.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any general questions which can be asked of the minister? If so, we would appreciate having them now. I think the steering committee will work out a plan of attack, as you might say, on this question of water resources, and we will probably deal with them by regions, by drainage systems, or in some form like that so that we may deal with each one of them is of interest to any member of the committee, fairly and fully. Are there any more questions on general policy?

Mr. McFARLANE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister whether, in the case of international rivers, the international section of the river come under the jurisdiction of the province or of the federal government? I think my question is supplementary to Mr. Nielsen's, but I do not think the answer to his question was quite what I was looking for.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Do you define an international river as one which runs along the boundary? Is that what you mean, or is it one which crosses a boundary?

Mr. McFARLANE: No, I mean one that crosses the boundary.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): There is a difference. To which do you refer?

Mr. McFARLANE: I suppose the Columbia may not be discussed at this time?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Oh yes, you may discuss the Columbia as long as you do not go into the subjects which are under negotiation.

Mr. McFARLANE: Relating then specifically to the Columbia river, does the Columbia river in British Columbia come under federal or under provincial jurisdiction?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): It is under provincial jurisdiction, but there is an overriding boundary waters treaty or act of 1909. It evolved the theory that waters originating in one country belong to that country. This was a new theory in British law.

Then in 1943 or 1944 there was a reference to the International Joint Commission about the Columbia river. That did not refer to a river between two countries. The province of British Columbia went ahead and began to make arrangements to develop the Columbia river. In 1955 the federal government interfered by passing the International River Improvements Act, which