

advisability of proceeding with the Churchill Falls No. 2, or Lower Churchill project.

Mr. Crosbie: A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. There are 2,500 megawatts of hydro power in the Lower Churchill alone, and this is badly needed so that they can displace the use of oil power, oil-generated electricity in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or in other parts of Canada. It is a question of great urgency.

I ask the minister again, has the government got this under active consideration, and will it treat hydroelectricity—which is a form of energy—in the same way as it treats the interprovincial distribution of oil and gas, that is, as a national project? The provinces cannot block it going across their borders. Will the same principle apply to hydroelectric transmission if there is surplus power in the Lower Churchill that can be sold outside Quebec?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, if the realization of the Lower Churchill project was so evident to the hon. member, I cannot understand why he did not abolish the federal-provincial task force that was studying, and has been studying for a while, the advisability of this project. I have already told him we have to wait for the report of this group as to whether the problem is even likely to arise or not.

Once we have this report, and if the report is positive as to the advisability of proceeding with the project, then obviously we will have to get down to hard negotiations. I would hope, however, that both the government of Newfoundland and the government of Quebec, once they have seen that report, will be willing to really sit down and negotiate—as has been the case in the past with every province—the transmission of electricity without any interference and without undue objections or obstacles to the realization of this project.

With us, it is indeed a matter of great concern and high priority. I can assure the hon. member that as far as we are concerned, we will do everything we can to help the two governments involved to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion soon.

Mr. Crosbie: I want you to act, not the two governments.

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CANADA DAY

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING JULY 1— NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the importance for any nation to have its own national symbols, will the Prime Minister have his government give priority consideration to bringing in a bill prior to July 1 this year to make Canada Day officially known as Canada Day? Also, will the government also consider bringing in a bill to give Canada its official national anthem?

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, both of those objectives have been the government's, and I was appreciative of the hon. member's motion in the House a few days ago to attempt to get unanimous consent for such sensible motions. Unfortunately, that consent was not forthcoming, and this is the kind of difficulty—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I understand that leaders of the opposition party are now saying that the objection was on this side.

An hon. Member: That's right.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: It sure was today.

Mr. Trudeau: I think we perhaps might ask, right at this moment, the unanimous consent of the House to return to these motions and have them voted upon now.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: Beautiful!

Mr. Trudeau: If I have to get consent, Madam Speaker, I move to revert to motions, seconded—

An hon. Member: You can't do that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Don't you know the rules?

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I do not think the question period is the time to move motions. I am not sure that I am on proper ground—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I apologize, Madam Speaker. I asked for unanimous consent and I heard a lot of "yeses". I thought I had it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I think the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi now has his answer: the Tories are opposed to such a motion.

Madam Speaker: I had notice of a question of privilege from the hon. Solicitor General and I would recognize him now.