

Energy Conservation

ners with whom they are involved. I know the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain had problems in this regard concerning the package at that time. However, I reiterate that I am glad to see that the government is finally moving in a direction that will assist materially in the conservation and provision of energy as well as in its movement from one part of the country to another.

Now I should like to turn to the matter of Fundy tidal power and the most recent report that has been produced. I believe this report was produced in 1974. It recommended a number of things. I must say I am pleased that my leader, when the first report was undertaken in 1969, was a partner to the undertaking as the premier of the Province of Nova Scotia. That report which came down in 1969 was called a review board report. Since then it has been updated by the review board, and I hope it will be further updated by the report which I understand now has been signed and which I hope is being pursued with a degree of vigour that was not evident between September, 1974, and recently when the agreement was signed.

I must say I was shocked because the information given to me in the House of Commons by the then minister of energy, mines and resources, the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald), was not in keeping with the information presented to me by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), who happens to be the minister from Nova Scotia, and whom I asked whether certain things would be set in motion in relation to some of the recommendations contained in the September, 1974, review board report. I was told in the house of Commons that progress was being made on the new study that was being recommended, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs told me that the agreement had not even been signed for the initiation of the new study about which I had written the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

There is no way anyone can tell me there was not a lot of double talk in what I, as a member of parliament from the Maritime provinces, which are desperately interested in seeing this further study undertaken, received from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Secretary of State for External Affairs who in effect indicated that there was not even an agreement signed among the participating partners. That is not the way in which we will get things done in this country, and if the government is condemned for the lack of seriousness which it displays about the energy crisis which exists in this country it will be condemned for the sort of thing that was happening to me and to the people in the Atlantic provinces who were being led astray by the statements made in the House of Commons. It is a shocking thing that upsets the hon. member for Don Valley and every other member of the House who is seriously concerned about this energy crisis and about our potential energy resources which are not being tapped and realistically investigated, appraised, and explored so that Canadians can be assured that they will have the energy required.

● (1750)

Let me give you an example of the frustration that develops when one talks to members of the government in an endeavour to see something come about that is vitally important to the future of the Atlantic provinces. I have here a report entitled, "Bay of Fundy Tidal Power Review

[Mr. Coates.]

Board—Preliminary Reassessment of Feasibility of Tidal Power Development in the Bay of Fundy", which was issued in September of 1974. It is a big title, and the problem in getting the report under way was as big. As page nine of the report the following is stated:

Consideration will be given to the possibility of developing smaller capacity sites whose output could be absorbed in the Maritime systems, either in the raw or retimed energy form.

What that means is that the government could move forward on smaller projects at this time, and I assume that the smaller projects we are taking about would be in Shepody Bay and Cumberland Bay basin as compared with Minas Basin, which would be a much bigger undertaking and which presents many more problems associated with the harnessing of power in that area. The report goes on to state:

As well, large capacity sites, whose output would primarily have to be transmitted, at least initially . . . will be examined.

It is on reading page 13 of the report that I discovered what was really happening so far as Fundy tidal power is concerned. I wrote to the Secretary of State for External Affairs because it was my belief that the proposal contained in subsection (i) of section 7 of the report on page 13 should be carried out in my constituency. The proposal contained in subsection (i) states as follows:

The Review Board suggests that the studies be contracted and that a project manager under the direction of a management group would undertake co-ordination and control of the activities of the study contractors, integrate the results of the separate studies and prepare the necessary reports. The estimated cost of staffing the small office envisaged is of the order of \$300,000 for the two-year period.

It was my belief that we had located at Amherst an organization that can do the work that is being proposed in this recommendation. It is called the Resource Management Service and it is operated under the aegis of the Council of Maritime Premiers. Formerly it was operated by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and prior to that it was under ARDA, and even prior to that under the MMRA.

That particular organization has tremendous facilities. It is financed and operated by the three provincial governments. It could put forward the data that is required to produce the requirements suggested in this report as being necessary before a final decision is made on the development of power from the tides of Fundy. I believe that if the office were set up at Amherst there would be a great deal of expediency provided to the government if it were really interested in getting an answer to the questions that were being asked in the report.

That was when I wrote the minister to ask if he would meet a delegation, or assist me in having a meeting with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources so that he could meet a delegation from that community to point out to him what was available in this facility in the town of Amherst. What happened? The minister wrote me back, not only not assisting me to secure such a meeting but saying that I was a little premature because there had not even been an agreement signed, after the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources had for months been answering questions in the House that things were proceeding favourably.