

enough, a few civil servants in several countries have conspired for the last 20 years to get that changed and to limit it. These amendments to the law of the sea which are being put forward to the United Nations are stealing the property of the Canadian people off our shores. Here we have a group of so-called lawyers drafting legislation like this which puts in words like "two hundred nautical miles" in Clause 1. That phrase appears again in Clause 28.

● (1730)

I say with all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, that if this government does not stand up and take control of these nitwits who call themselves lawyers and who write into regulations something which is not right, then this government deserves to go down to defeat.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thacker: The sooner the better.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): We fought hard to get control of these undersea resources, and a group which was not elected and never advised their ministers accurately, conspired with their colleagues in other countries to give it away without even telling their innocent ministers what the truth is. The offshore belongs to us under international law, as the offshore of the United States belongs to them, and where we meet halfway we will draw a line. It is all in the terms here. So once again I say to members of the House: stand up and do your duty here and do not let these drafters get away with that type of nonsense.

We drafted this bill 25 years ago to lay the framework for a great development program in Canada. We wanted to put in the means of moving all types of energy back and forth across Canada, and we went to the various regions of the country to lay out these programs, which were accepted. If you look at the record, in the fall of 1957, a few months after the government changed, we put through the House the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act. It laid down that the people of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island had to have some form of concerted energy development. They agreed, both Liberal and Conservative provinces, to that act. We got agreement from all provinces, including Quebec, that we should work together and have a national power grid from one end of the country to the other, from the Yukon River in the northwest to the Churchill in the east. They called it the Hamilton line. That power grid is the key to the dilemma in which the government finds itself today in relation to the dispute between Newfoundland and Quebec.

The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Rompkey) was quite sincere when he said, let us try and put this thing forward and hope that Quebec will not see it as an insult or as taking sides. But the truth is that Quebec already sees it as an insult, already sees it as the federal government's interfering with them. How can we get away from that? Give this bill a six-month hoist and bring back amendments which will have the NEB playing an active part in putting into effect across

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Canada a national power grid, and the principle on which it will operate is that of a common carrier. That, to the uninitiated, means that once you build that great power grid in cooperation with all the provinces, every person will have the right to use that grid, whether it be a power line or a pipeline.

When you look at this bill carefully you find that an oil or natural gas carrier must be a common carrier; there is no monopoly held by one company or one province. But when we go into the amendment we have before us we see a technical and legal device whereby an interprovincial power line is called an international power line, which would give the federal government jurisdiction, giving it the right to come into a province and do certain things. That was not in the original bill because of the fact, as the minister stated, that we did not have the technical expertise or knowledge at that time and we were trying hard to get it before we added powers to the NEB under the act. This amendment adds that power but does it by the trick of calling it an international power line as opposed to "interprovincial". However, they missed out on the essential which makes legislation like this work. Once you go into a monopoly for the carrying of anything, you create in effect a great danger to this country. To prevent that, we should accept the principle of the common carrier. And if we could just get this legislation out of the House for a little while, then maybe the minister, who is very intelligent, could go back and look at these debates we had 25 years ago. Perhaps he could get from the government files a report which was submitted in 1963, and have a look at it. That report was done on behalf of the ten provinces, including Quebec, with the full support of the Duplessis administration and later on the Lesage administration. All that information lies in government vaults, and it lays down the economic alternatives in building a national power grid.

By doing this through the national power grid you would not be interfering with Newfoundland and Quebec; by using this principle you would not be isolating Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick from access to this power. You can see the realization of what many people have hoped and dreamed for, the full development of the Churchill River, the Fundy tides, utilization of coal, and access to low-cost liquified natural fuels, all pooled into one great power grid moving energy up and down the country. It would make the job of building this nation so much easier. We should look at the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act as a framework for solving the differences between Newfoundland and Quebec, and then extend that all across the country. Without doing anything to hurt future generations, we would have an efficient method of moving energy across the country, and it would go a tremendous distance toward giving us energy independence. There has never been an energy crisis in Canada. There has always been and there will always be enough energy if we do not muck it up. It is just a question of building the machinery to move it around at low cost to give Canadians the big advantage their future demands they should have.