

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Dinsdale: I believe the Grand river project was an ad hoc project, if my memory serves me correctly, but the formula was much the same.

Mr. Pickersgill: The Grand river project was undertaken even before 1953?

Mr. Dinsdale: Yes.

Mr. Pickersgill: So that this co-operation with the provinces is not something of recent date.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): I do not think I have ever been accused of making a "me too" speech in this chamber and I do not wish to do so now; nor do I wish to take any time which could be devoted by the minister to answering questions on a vital matter. However, I would be remiss if I did not echo the remarks of the hon. member for Peel in connection with the satisfaction that I know the people of York West feel in finally seeing this program for the metropolitan Toronto and region conservation authority having a chance to be completed.

I think there is a fair amount of personal satisfaction for any hon. member of the house in seeing a project which has been close to him during his period of office, finally come within sight of completion. This is something which has been close to us in my area since 1954 and for very obvious reasons, namely because of the tremendous loss of life in York West during the period of hurricane Hazel. There have been many intermediate steps. I think the tribute paid to the conservation authority of the district was well earned. I think all of those in the metropolitan area who continued to bring to the attention of the government the need for completion of this project deserve a great deal of thanks.

I might say to the hon. member for Bonaville-Twilligate that it is very easy on occasion to have legislation enacted by the house but it is a very different thing to see it implemented. We therefore greatly appreciate the move which the minister has made at this time.

Mr. Best: I should like briefly to concur in the remarks of the hon. members for Oxford, Peel and York West concerning item 295 with regard to contributions from the federal government to the provinces towards the construction of dams and other works to assist in the conservation and control of water resources. In our own county of Halton we have numerous river systems. Indeed, we have all or parts of four river valley conservation authorities. I refer to parts of the Grand, the Credit and the whole of Sixteen-mile creek and Twelve-mile creek authorities. In that respect the situation is much the same as that in the ridings of the hon. members

who have spoken previously. We have been adding to our population sometimes at the rate of 10,000 people a year in Halton county. Because of the tremendous growth of our towns and since the number of people commuting to Hamilton and to metropolitan Toronto grows constantly it is important that our water systems, our parks and our farm lands be protected to an even greater extent for agricultural, recreational and safety purposes.

The use made of these areas, particularly in the northern part of my county, has increased tremendously in recent years. Thus any measures which may be able to aid the preservation of such land and water resources are of great importance indeed.

This measure, with the three specific amounts, two for Ontario and one in Manitoba, is indeed a large factor. I only hope it will be extended from year to year to other water systems as applications are made by municipalities and provinces or whoever may wish to initiate such contributions and such planning.

I do feel that this program, along with other matters such as the A.R.D.A. measure, brought forward by our Minister of Agriculture, and which we have been debating in this house in recent days, will go far towards providing greater water resource use in my own county and indeed in many areas across Canada.

Item agreed to.

Northern administration branch—

297. Branch administration including authority to make recoverable advances for services performed on behalf of the governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory, \$1,133,935.

Mr. Granger: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke earlier in this debate I mentioned federal aid for Eskimos and said, in effect, that whereas Quebec Eskimos receive around \$400 per person per year, the Eskimos in Newfoundland receive much less, perhaps around \$250 per year.

I am afraid I left the impression that there was a yearly grant to Eskimos in Newfoundland. I should like to make a correction, because to the best of my knowledge, that is not so. There was a lump sum made available for their use.

I should like again to make my plea that an agreement be reached with the province by which the Eskimos in Labrador would receive the same help from federal sources as do Eskimos elsewhere. I have every reason to think that in saying the Eskimos in Newfoundland receive \$250 per head, apart from perhaps creating the impression that this was an annual grant, in fact they receive much less.