

Supply—Northern Affairs

Canada under way thus providing employment for people who need it, providing power for areas of this continent that need it, and helping generally the welfare of the west.

Mr. Herridge: I must apologize, Mr. Chairman, for being somewhat late. I was at a dinner, and it would have been most discourteous for me to have left at the time I should have left. However, I heard the tail end of the remarks of the hon. member who has just taken his seat, and I expected him to speak in that vein. That is the sort of thing he tells me in private. Of course he does not know much about the whole question. In order to indicate the general approach to this question in the interior of British Columbia, and in order to refute the argument put forward by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano, I now quote from the minutes of a meeting protesting the construction of the High Arrow dam held at Revelstoke, last year, at which there were representatives of municipalities, chambers of commerce, labour and all political parties from southeastern British Columbia. I will quote half a dozen extracts to indicate the trend of public opinion:

Mayor Hardman in his opening remarks—

He is mayor of Revelstoke:

—stated that the purpose of this meeting was to draw to the attention of the governments concerned the opposition of the people of this region to the construction of the High Arrow dam.

Mr. Waterfield of Nakusp—

He is a Conservative minded person.

—spoke of the possible short time advantages to Nakusp while the dam was being built, but the more disadvantageous it becomes from the long term point of view.

Mr. Affleck, civil engineer from Nelson, spoke of the shortsightedness which seemed evident in the handling of our heritage. The flooding of the Arrow lake would build up industries across the line to enter into active competition with Canada.

Mr. H. S. McFadden, local solicitor—

He is from Revelstoke and was a provincial candidate for the Progressive Conservatives during the last provincial election:

—detailed water elevations at various points on the lakes and river and gave a rather vivid indication of the devastation that would result from High Arrow development.

Mr. G. Hobbs, local M.L.A. for Revelstoke, expressed his opposition to the building of the High Arrow dam. Mr. S. Fleming, M.P. for Okanagan-Revelstoke, had this to say. I will quote what he said in part:

The construction of High Arrow would diminish the return from Mica dam, according to information received from General McNaughton. The government would undoubtedly take into account the fact that benefits of High Arrow would be of short duration only, while this meeting, quite justly, was concerned in the long range features.

[Mr. Payne.]

That is what they are concerned about. They are looking at it from the long range point of view.

Mr. Bainbridge, president of the chamber of commerce at Castlegar, said that if High Arrow dam was built after Mica dam the accredited downstream benefits accruing from the High Arrow would be of little consequence.

His Worship Mayor Parkinson of Kelowna—

Kelowna is in Okanagan Boundary riding.

—said that he and the people of the Okanagan valley would very definitely protest if a dam were built on the south end of the Okanagan valley resulting in the flooding of the entire region, in order to give water for irrigation to the fruit growers across the American border. The effect would be represented in further U.S. competition for Canadian growers. It appeared to the speaker that this was one basic principle involved in the construction of High Arrow. The only difference being represented in aluminum rather than fruit.

Mayor Becker of Vernon—

That is in Okanagan-Revelstoke riding—

Mr. Pugh: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Herridge: Certainly.

Mr. Pugh: With regard to Mayor Parkinson of Kelowna, where in his speech did he say the dam would be constructed? I believe you used the word "Okanagan".

Mr. Herridge: Yes, he said that if a dam were constructed—

Mr. Pugh: In the Okanagan valley?

Mr. Herridge: In the Okanagan valley.

Mr. Pugh: Thank you.

Mr. Herridge: These minutes continue:

Mayor Becker of Vernon spoke of the magnificent scenery throughout the Arrow lake region which would be devastated by flooding, and spoke of the many hot mineral springs and scenic beauty of immense value as a tourist attraction when the trans-Canada highway was completed. He stated that the Arrow lake was one of the most beautiful valleys in B.C. Mayor Becker unequivocally opposed the High Arrow project on the basis of his close association with Columbia valley communities and his experience as a qualified engineer.

Mr. A. W. Lundell—

Social Credit M.L.A. for Revelstoke:

—stated that he had been on record for a long time as being opposed to the High Arrow dam. He said that statements from Messrs. Fulton and Williston had already side-tracked the development of High Arrow ahead of Mica dam.

Mr. Reid, Salmon Arm—

Social Credit M.L.A. at that time. Salmon Arm is hundred miles or so to the west of Revelstoke:

—placed himself unalterably on record as completely opposing the construction of High Arrow dam but at the same time he thought it quite