

*South Saskatchewan River*

for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) and then the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis). If the hon. member wishes to follow up this matter he can speak now.

**Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I can speak on that subject as well as anything else and then I can work something else in. I do not care whom they appoint as returning officer; what I am interested in is how many vote for me. I am not worrying about the returning officer being honest, dishonest or otherwise; they are all honest in the Fraser valley. If the opposition want to appoint a returning officer, it is quite all right with me.

I am sorry there are not enough hon. members on this side of the house to challenge any ruling, but my understanding is that at this time an hon. member is entitled to bring up any grievance that may exist in his riding. Am I not correct?

**An hon. Member:** Yes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Golding):** The hon. member is quite correct, but I think we should try to follow the list that is here. If the hon. member intends to follow up the matter being discussed by the hon. member for Davenport, then I think it would be wise to bring that discussion to a conclusion; but if he wishes to bring up some other matter then I think we should follow the list.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** If I have to bow to the Speaker's ruling, I will.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Cruickshank:** On a question of privilege. As I understand, there is no such thing as a list.

**Mr. Sinclair:** That is quite right.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** As a matter of courtesy, is it not customary for a speaker on one side of the house to follow a speaker on the other side? I am quite willing to bow to the hon. member for Lake Centre because he is always interesting, but it is not according to the rules or according to custom.

**Mr. Graydon:** It is a question of whom the Speaker sees.

## IRRIGATION AND POWER—SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into an argument over who should be speaking, but a couple of hours ago an arrangement was made as to the order. I may say to the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) that I reciprocate his sentiment; I can tell him that no one listens to what he says with greater interest than I do.

The hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) has placed before the house a situation that requires the attention of the Secretary of State (Mr. Gibson). Having regard to the interest that the hon. member for Davenport has taken throughout the years in the development of the natural resources in western Canada, I can say that when he starts on a subject he does not terminate until he gets results if he believes that injustice or unfairness is being done. I shall speak this afternoon in regard to the development of natural resources in the prairie provinces, and in particular regarding the development in Saskatchewan of a great irrigation and electric power plan on the South Saskatchewan river.

The building of a dam on the South Saskatchewan river would permit the development of a great deal of power in the province and add to the fertility of over half a million acres in the immediate area. The subject occupied a considerable portion of the campaign in the by-election in Rosthern. It is disappointing to the people of my province that in the speech from the throne nothing was said with regard to that important matter. There was no hint of action on prairie irrigation. Forest conservation, the building of a trans-Canada highway and other such matters of national interest were referred to, but a matter of peculiar interest to Saskatchewan, namely, the necessity of making fruitful large areas in the province through a national irrigation plan and the use of facilities available on the South Saskatchewan river was entirely lost sight of.

In October last, during the by-election much was said in regard to this matter. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) spoke of it on many occasions. To use his own words, he said that his "main task" in the House of Commons "would be to push the building of a dam as soon as possible." He pointed out that the development of irrigation and power on this river would mean industrial and agricultural development in western Canada similar to the Essen region in Germany.

The leader of the Liberal party in Saskatchewan referred to this project on several occasions and declared it to be the main issue in the by-election campaign. On October 20 Mr. Tucker, the leader of the Liberal party in the province, spoke at Hanley and said that support had been received from two federal cabinet ministers, both of whom had expressed their favourable attitude toward the South Saskatchewan river irrigation and power project. He went on to say:

The fact that the Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, had shown a favourable attitude toward the project while he par-