

Columbia River Treaty

member for Kootenay East again because there are some good quotations from his past history. On December 13, 1962, the hon. member for Kootenay East made these remarks, and I refer to them because there has been some question as to what was the original development with respect to negotiations, and it has been mentioned by members on this side and by others that in the first instance the government of Canada started to proceed to negotiate on the basis of the McNaughton plan. I want to bring the hon. member for Kootenay East to my support again, and this is what he said as found on page 2642 of *Hansard*:

These are the teams that came face to face in a highly technical discussion. Soon after the teams got to work it would appear, as I think the minister will agree, that they had come almost to the point of signing an agreement based on the original international joint commission principles which in effect comprise the preset McNaughton plan. They were about to sign what is now considered the McNaughton plan when Premier Bennett of British Columbia or one of his negotiators walked into the negotiations, pulled the rug out from under their feet and said that there would be no flooding of the Kootenays. This was the first doublecross.

We have proof positive from the distinguished member for Kootenay East of the basis on which the original negotiations started. I do not think there should be any further reference to that subject now.

I intend to deal with many of the aspects of this question as quickly as possible, and I wish to refer now to the telegraphed petition sent to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and signed by 19 engineers urging further consideration of the Columbia treaty prior to ratification by parliament. In reply to a question I asked him the Prime Minister informed the house yesterday that three of these engineers had withdrawn their names as a result of a telegram they had received from him. I wish to deal with this question for a few minutes.

I have a copy of the telegram to the Prime Minister from these 19 engineers. I have a photostat copy of the original signatures, but I am not going to take the time of the house to read the telegram. It urges the Prime Minister to reconsider this question before he commits the country to an irrevocable course of development for this river. I have a copy of the Prime Minister's telegram to these people. One can see from the length of the telegram that the Prime Minister was very concerned about these 19 prominent engineers urging delay in the ratification of the treaty.

[Mr. Herridge.]

Yesterday in reply to a question I asked he mentioned that Mr. P. M. Sauder had replied that he was not supporting the petition. He says in his telegram that he is going to leave it to parliament to decide the matter. He does mention that we should retain the right to decrease the allotments to the United States if Canada is short of water at any time for domestic, municipal, industrial or irrigation purposes.

Then, there is one from Mr. J. B. Stirling, vice president, and there is one from G. H. Thomson. I am not going to take the time of the house to read them.

However, the telegram from the Prime Minister is more ambiguous and more uninforming than the official statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) before the committee. You can well understand, having received this assurance from the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Pearson), that these people might respond in this way to his appeal.

I have a copy of the metropolitan issue of the *Globe and Mail* which came in about half past ten this morning. There is an article in it entitled, "Commons Rejects N.D.P. Move to Add Rider to Columbia Pact." This article may be some guide as to why people have withdrawn their names. I quote:

The engineers, among 19 who signed the petition during the annual meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada in Banff, Alberta, last week, were John B. Stirling, of Montreal, Chancellor of Queen's University; P. M. Sauder, a life member of the institute, and G. H. Thomson, president of Calgary Power Limited.

Mr. Thomson is also a vice president and director of Montreal Engineering Company Limited—

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Where did we hear that name before?

Mr. Herridge: Yes, in the committee.

—a consulting firm employed by the government in support of its defence of the Columbia treaty.

I can well understand him withdrawing his name on an appeal from the Prime Minister. I continue to quote:

The president of Montreal Engineering, G. A. Gaherty is chairman of Calgary Power.

You see why there can be reasons for these names being withdrawn on appeal from the Prime Minister that they should be withdrawn, knowing that if this treaty goes through the parliament of Canada the government of British Columbia or the B.C. hydro authority will be needing consultants