

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

year in tourist business, and it was strongly urged that \$3 million worth of power produced would be insufficient to compensate for this loss.

Because of the complaints made, it was agreed by the joint commission that they would go to Niagara Falls, take certain photographs and view the falls in its reduced state. A meeting was to be arranged in January. However, within the past few weeks the United States power authority, that is the state power authority of New York, had withdrawn its application to the international joint commission to conduct such experiments which would necessarily reduce the flow. Shortly thereafter, Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission as well withdrew its application. I have, under date of March 20, a communication from the greater Niagara chamber of commerce which indicates it has placed a resolution before the Ontario chambers of commerce which are to meet in Niagara Falls on May 9, 10 and 11, and to which I invite all members of the house who may wish to attend, to ask both levels of government to intervene in any further approach towards the commission to perform such experiments with a view to cutting the water falling over the falls.

Notwithstanding the fact the applications have been withdrawn it is the feeling of the greater Niagara chamber of commerce that, so far as is possible, an undertaking should be obtained from the provincial power authority and from this department not to permit further diversion of the water from the face of the falls. This has been supported by a resolution from the city of Niagara Falls and a resolution of the Niagara Falls local of the united electrical workers of Canada. I ask, Mr. Chairman, whether the minister has had any such communication from the interested parties and whether he has any remarks which he would like to make concerning the department's position in respect of a possible renewal of the applications which I am informed may come within three or four months or three or four years.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Chairman, this matter, as the hon. member has intimated, is one which has been handled largely by the international joint commission on boundary waterways. The position of the water resources branch of my department in respect of this matter has been to provide the necessary engineering data and so forth. I can assure the hon. member that the department is very conscious of all the implications of a proposal of this kind.

It so happens that the tourist promotional activities of the government come under the Department of Northern Affairs and National

Resources. Therefore not only are we interested in this proposal from the standpoint of its impact on water resources but also from the standpoint of its impact on the appeal of Niagara Falls to the tourists, and the contribution of Niagara Falls to the tourist industry.

I am sure the hon. member is also aware that inherent in the treaty are the tourist potentialities of Niagara Falls. I thank her for her contribution to the discussion in this way and assure her the matter is being watched very carefully.

**Miss LaMarsh:** May I ask the minister one or two further questions. Those interested in the problem in Niagara Falls have had some difficulty in ascertaining the meaning of certain words within the treaty. There is a particular reference to off-season, and this is now taken to mean from the first of November in each year; but it is not so defined. There is also a reference to the beauty of Niagara, but of course no criterion is given. It became very apparent within the last four months that there was a considerable difference of opinion as to what the beauty of Niagara might be, whether it might be a six foot or a six inch flow over the crest. I wonder if the minister might inform the committee whether there is any definition to which such interested persons might have recourse, and which might be of some assistance to them if the problem arises again.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I would suspect that the description of the beauty of Niagara Falls is a qualitative rather than a quantitative category. Of course it would involve insurance that a sufficient fall of water is maintained, and I do not think we could get an actual specific judgment from an engineer or from engineering sources. The personnel in the water resources branch are primarily qualified engineers. If we wanted an accurate description of what is described in the phrase "beauties of Niagara" I suggest we should have to resort to the opinion of honeymoon couples.

**Miss LaMarsh:** They are the last ones who would know.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I would like to ask the minister about something which is either under way or is still under contemplation; I am not quite sure which. I want to ask about something in Manitoba and perhaps I can best explain it by reading a brief extract from the *Winnipeg Free Press* of January 26, 1962, headed "Roblin blasts Fairfield".

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Fairclough?