

I will now call the first item, item 277, and will ask the minister to give us an opening statement.

WATER RESOURCES BRANCH

Item 277 Water Resources Branch—Administration, operation and maintenance including Canada's share of the expenses of the international executive council, world power conference and authority to make recoverable advances in amounts not exceeding in the aggregate the amount of the share of the Province of Manitoba of the cost of regulating the levels of Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul \$ 1,508,354

Mr. DUMAS: Mr. Chairman, just before you call on the minister, I notice here that in the sixth item of the agenda we will study, under "International Problems (excluding Columbia)", involving item 279, we have an item of more than \$98,000 for the Columbia river. It will be hard to exclude it. Probably you mean the whole problem of the Columbia river.

The CHAIRMAN: We can perhaps discuss it in general, but not in a manner that might conflict with the international negotiations now in progress. Is that satisfactory?

Mr. DUMAS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, we want to welcome you here, and first I would ask if you would mind introducing to the committee the members of your staff you have present.

Hon. Alvin HAMILTON (*Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources*): I will ask Mr. Robertson to do that.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Robertson?

Mr. R. G. ROBERTSON (*Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs and National Resources*): Mr. Chairman, the members of the staff here this morning—they would not necessarily all be present at all meetings—are Mr. E. A. Cote, assistant deputy minister; Mr. T. M. Patterson, director, water resources branch; Mr. J. D. McLeod, chief engineer, operations division, water resources branch; Mr. K. Kristjanson, secretary, advisory committee on water use policy; Mr. A. F. C. Sincennes and Mr. M. R. Beauchamp of the water resources branch.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Now, Mr. Minister, would you proceed with your opening remarks?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

First of all I would like to say that I welcome this opportunity to introduce to this committee my department's estimates on water resources.

It seems to me that the committee has made a very wise decision to consider water as a resource of Canada in the broadest possible context, before looking at the estimates in detail. By following this order, members of the committee will be enabled to examine the estimates with greater value to themselves, and I hope that they can carry this information out to the public at large, because it is obvious to all of us that these next few years will see some very important decisions made in connection with our waters in Canada.

I have asked officials of my department to make available to the committee several documents which should be of value to the members of this committee in examining this subject.

The first document is a publication of the water resources branch which was prepared on the occasion of the Canadian sectional meeting of the world power conference which was held in Montreal in 1958.

Have the members copies of these, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: They have been passed around, Mr. Minister, or mailed to them.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): The second document is a special article on water which was written for the department's annual report of 1955-56. The third document is Water Power Resources of Canada published on March