

*Atlantic Provinces Power Development*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Do I take it from that that the federal government is going to make an offer to Newfoundland to help that province with its hydro projects?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** We have received no specific request from Newfoundland. As I have mentioned, there was a request to alter the bill to which I have prepared an answer, and it will be submitted formally because this is a matter of wider government policy, in the form of a letter to the premier of that province expressing our point of view in this matter.

The situation therefore stands as follows: If they put forward a specific proposal either on hydro, transmission lines or thermal plants, it will be considered in the light of the criteria set forth in this bill and in respect of the Beechwood project.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, if such a proposal is made—and I am not the one to judge whether such a proposal has not already been made by Premier Smallwood, although I understood this had been done—and if the government decides to agree to it, will it then have to amend this legislation? If so, why not amend it now and provide for the wider basis?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** If it is a question of a transmission line or thermal plant it comes under this legislation. If it is a matter of a hydro project, a special bill will be brought in, or I imagine that is the way it would be handled. It could, of course, be handled under the existing provisions with respect to power in the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, but we would like to keep that particular legislation for the purpose for which it was originally intended, namely the development of the north. It just happens to be our opinion that the government should handle this peculiar problem in this way, working with the two provinces concerned, in designing and planning these projects and supervising the consulting firms.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Apparently the government chooses to go about this matter in the clumsy way.

**Mr. McCullough:** When the hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs spoke I listened very intently to his remarks and was certainly impressed with the rather impassioned speech he made. I think he meant every word he said and I can appreciate that quite fully because he and I both come from provinces which are quite justified in asking that they get a better deal from the Dominion of Canada. He was kind enough or generous

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]

enough to admit that the province of Saskatchewan, of all the other provinces, was probably that which had comparable requirements and could indeed be sincere and justified in asking for some action on the part of the federal government.

**Mr. Brooks:** Before the hon. member goes on, Mr. Chairman, I did not say comparable. I think I said "approach the problems of the maritimes nearer than any other".

**Mr. McCullough:** I take the hon. minister's remarks as a correction if one be needed, but I think I pretty well indicated the sentiment which he expressed.

I would like to ask the chairman, in view of the remarks which I made previously when I tried to make a case for my province and in view of the remarks of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, would the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources now say whether or not any formal request has been made by the province of Saskatchewan in respect to thermal power development and, if so, what has been the nature of such requests?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Chairman, the only request we have had so far from the province of Saskatchewan is an informal submission in the name of the premier of Saskatchewan which dealt with the general power situation in the province and I think that is going to be tabled in answer to a question on the order paper of the house from, I believe, the hon. member for Assiniboia.

**The Chairman:** It being five o'clock, I shall rise so that the house may discuss private and public bills.

## CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

## AMENDMENT TO GIVE INDIANS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena)** moved the second reading of Bill No. 25, to amend the Canada Elections Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the second reading of this bill I might first say that I consider it a great privilege to foster and promote at this time this particular piece of legislation on behalf of a group of Canadians who are indeed the first citizens of Canada and who for many years have been deprived of the opportunity of participating in public affairs and have had relatively little voice in selecting hon. members to sit in this house.

In my opinion the purpose of the bill is outlined in the explanatory note fairly clearly. It is primarily to delete the restrictions now placed on Indians in their right to vote under the Canada Elections Act. The bill,