

Atlantic Provinces Power Development

from a statement made by the president of the commission as reported in the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* of November 16, 1957. He is reported as saying:

The newly announced federal power development plan for the maritimes "will go a long way toward attracting large industrial users to the maritime area and should definitely help the economy of the whole Atlantic region," J. C. MacKeen, president of Nova Scotia Light and Power Company Limited, said Friday night.

Mr. MacKeen saw in the plan opportunities in expanded markets for Nova Scotia's coal mining industry. He pointed out that "great advantages can accrue from the plan to build new thermal generating stations and interconnect these over an interprovincial grid line.

I continue:

He recalled that Nova Scotia Light and Power directors, at their October meeting, had authorized construction of a 138,000-volt grid line from Halifax to Truro as the company's part of the interprovincial grid; also the building of a thermal generating station at Tufts Cove, the first unit of which would have a capacity of 100,000 to 120,000 kilowatts.

He said the new federal plan would make possible the installation of larger and more efficient units at the proposed Tufts Cove plant.

Finally, Mr. MacKeen said:

The federal plan will go a long way toward attracting large industrial users to the maritime area and should definitely help the economy of the whole Atlantic region. Always interested in the general economy of the province, the company is pleased to see—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I should remind the hon. member that it is not usually considered regular to quote from newspapers commenting on what has been done or said in this house during this session, and I would ask him not to pursue that quotation any farther if he can avoid it.

Mr. MacEwan: Very good, Mr. Speaker. I shall just close my remarks by reminiscing back to a meeting in May, 1956, in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, attended by the present Prime Minister of Canada and the present premier of Nova Scotia, in the junior high school, which was filled to overflowing, a meeting in which the matter of a subvention on coal was brought up. The present Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) of Canada said to the premier that he would see, and that it was his promise, that subventions were paid on coal for power purposes in the maritime provinces and that his promise would be carried out. I am sure the people of my constituency and of the Atlantic region will remember that as a promise which has been carried out, and I am pleased to be associated with it and to vote for this bill.

Mr. E. G. Hansell (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we can let this bill go through without making some comment from this corner of the house. We are not going to obstruct the bill in any way, but I do wish

to point out one or two things which we think are discriminatory. I say that we are not going to vote against the bill or obstruct its passage because anything which may be done to help the prosperity of the maritime provinces is commendable. This group, of course, will support such a measure. We do wish, however, that the legislation had been framed in such a way that the maritime provinces could have taken advantage of the offer of loans for thermal power plants to generate electricity from coal, and at the same time offering the same advantage to any of the other provinces of Canada which cared to take advantage of it. That, we believe, would have been the best kind of legislation. It would not have been discriminatory, and it would be giving all of Canada the same chance as it is giving the maritime provinces.

We may look at this as a gesture of the government to help those areas of the maritimes which may be depressed; but might I say that a depressed area may not be confined particularly to a province. We may find depressed areas in municipalities. We may find depressed places in areas smaller than municipalities, all of which may be helped by some thermal power plant being placed within its borders, if such a plant were needed. I have particular reference to my own constituency, part of which is a very depressed area and refer to the Crowsnest area in southern Alberta. It is an area which produces coal in abundance. I do not always like to bring in politics and elections but in the last election in that part of the country both Liberal and Conservative candidates spoke of the need for thermal plants in the Crowsnest pass area. In fact, my Liberal opponent advertised that he had been able to get the then government to increase the subventions on coal, and I have the advertisement in my hand. It is in big letters and says:

This will mean a thermal power plant for the Crowsnest pass.

When this advertisement appeared in the papers I immediately got in touch with the government here, which was the previous government, and I discovered that no such action had been taken by that government to guarantee, promise or set the wheels in motion even for the establishment of thermal power plants in the Crowsnest pass. My Conservative candidate said, "Well, of course, that is in our program, too". I find no such indication in this measure.

I am interested in this because we find that according to this measure subventions are to be paid for coal used in thermal power plants in order to help the maritimes. I do not see why the coal which is used for the