

governments involved in this matter. I think it can be agreed that the conclusion of this work and the development on the Fraser would be very harmful to the fisheries. I would like to know if an application to build a dam would be a provincial government or a federal government matter.

Mr. MACLEAN: Both governments would be involved. It is actually and primarily a provincial government responsibility. But under the Fisheries Act it is the responsibility of the minister, and the governor in council to safeguard the fish resources both with regard to natural and artificial obstructions in the rivers. We can insist, and we do insist, that proposed power sites which would be damaging to the fisheries resources will not be built, or in other cases where they can be built with feasible fish passing facilities that they have to do this; they have to be included.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): Does the federal government have any responsibility in the field of flood control along those rivers? The Minister of Agriculture announced in the house the other day in his talk that they had, in Nova Scotia, some kind of regulations which were partly the responsibility of the federal government.

Mr. MACLEAN: It comes under a special act of the federal parliament. There are two chief acts. This is out of my field entirely, and it is the responsibility of another department. One is the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act, and the other is the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, under which the federal government does contribute to drainage in one case, and to bring about water control in the other. But water resources are primarily the responsibility of the provincial governments.

Mr. CROUSE: I was very pleased with the information given by the minister with respect to this problem. It certainly has thrown a great deal of light on it for me. It would appear that if power development was proceeded with on this river, it would mean the ultimate destruction of the salmon industry, according to the figures which the minister gave.

One question which comes to my mind is this: how desperate is the need for such power development? Is there an immediate need to develop it, and what forces are asking that it be developed at the present time?

Mr. MACLEAN: This again is a little out of my field. But I might say that the demand for power in British Columbia has been going up at a considerable rate in the last few years. There is an annual increase of about seven per cent. That is considered high, and in British Columbia, over the last few years, the annual increment in demand has been something in the order of 18 per cent in some cases.

This of course has created a tremendous urge for new major power developments. Now, there are several alternatives other than the Fraser. One, of course, is on the Columbia river system. The other is the Peace river in the north, the so-called Wenner Gren plan.

In addition to this, recently the British Columbia Electric Company began to build a large thermal plant in the Vancouver area which will remove some of the immediate pressure for added output from hydro sources. This plant is designed in such a way that it would be adaptable. I think I am correct in saying it is designed so that it might be adapted to the generation of electric power from atomic energy at some time in the future, if it becomes economically feasible.

Mr. DRYSDALE: This perhaps is the basic source of my concern. Under the terms of reference, section 8, there was to be a preliminary report, and then within three months they had to decide whether or not they were going to produce a final report. Is the final report going to be produced?

Mr. MACLEAN: I am afraid it is not my responsibility to answer that, in the first place. Even if it were, I would still not be in a position to do so as yet.