

Report of O.E.C.D.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is perhaps anticipating the discussion of the treaty when it comes before parliament. The two matters presented to the house were the announcement of the signing of the treaty tomorrow and then the proposed procedure for ratification by referring the signed treaty to this house and its committee. If the hon. member has matters that go beyond that point, he could more properly defer them until the matter comes before the house for consideration.

Mr. Herridge: I am trying like the devil, Mr. Speaker, to be in order, but at the same time I am also trying to have my say on behalf of the people whom I represent, as to why we consider this to be unnecessary and unseemly haste. Mr. Williston also says that a water licence must be issued and hearings held before any decision is made. In view of these matters there is likely to be the lapse of months before there is an agreement between the government of Canada and the government of British Columbia, and Mr. Williston says that the agreement between the government of Canada and the government of British Columbia should be attached to the treaty.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, regardless of what the chaps down in the water resources branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources say, they have not an inkling as to where the foundation for this High Arrow dam will be. I do not know how we can agree to do certain things by treaty when we do not know if suitable foundations can be found for the High Arrow dam.

I was very glad to hear the Prime Minister say that various organizations, individuals and so on will have opportunity to make representations before the external affairs committee. I am sure in making that statement he wishes to provide every opportunity to those thousands of people of all parties whom I represent who, through their consulting engineers and representatives on the water resources committee of the Arrow lakes, and the city of Revelstoke, are very anxious to come to Ottawa and present their evidence.

I trust that when the external affairs committee meets to discuss this treaty we shall hear the impregnable General McNaughton, who is the Rock of Gibraltar on Columbia development, and Mr. Bartholomew, consulting engineer of Vancouver, and possibly representatives of various other engineering firms. I hope these authorities and persons may be heard.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we do think that under all the circumstances there is an unnecessary and unseemly haste in signing this treaty at this time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to enter into a controversy in any way, realizing this would be improper, but I cannot allow to go unchallenged the statement that there was unseemly haste in any way. It has been pointed out that for three years efforts have been made by this government and its representatives to bring about the attainment of an objective that has been the hope of Canadians, and particularly residents of British Columbia, for many years. The Leader of the Opposition has stated that there were discussions during the period the former government was in office, and certainly there has been available to anyone the opportunity to understand the course being followed.

The negotiating committee has been meeting and I am very confident, with that one observation, in saying to the hon. member who has just spoken that I appreciate the fact that he is willing and desirous of having this treaty submitted to the committee on external affairs.

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, there was one matter I omitted to bring to the attention of the house, and that was to advise that a copy of the statement which I will make in Washington tomorrow morning, and also of the treaty, will be sent to all members so that each and every one will have before him or her a record of the statement and also the treaty itself.

TRADE

O.E.C.D.—TABLING OF REPORT OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on December 15 the Prime Minister stated, as reported at page 824 of *Hansard*, that the convention and the report of the preparatory committee in respect of the organization for economic co-operation and development would be tabled. The following day, as reported at page 866 of *Hansard*, I tabled copies of the convention and of the communique that was issued at the close of the conference. I now have received and table copies in English and in French of the report of the O.E.C.D. preparatory committee.