

Request for Bay of Fundy Tidal Power Study

co-operate with the federal government. A recent editorial in the *Telegraph Journal* reads in part:

The Bay of Fundy is not a Nova Scotia bay. It is at least as much New Brunswick's bay. New Brunswick has a tremendous interest both in what is done with the bay and in the power that it can produce—pollution-free power that would be endlessly renewable and not consume any of the world's shrinking fuel supply. New Brunswick must be involved and must be just as rigorous in pursuit of the idea as Nova Scotia.

The editorial points out that the bay is interprovincial and that therefore the federal government has a definite responsibility to take part in the project and assist the provinces financially because they cannot "go it" alone. The editorial concludes:

The federal government should look at the project with an open pocketbook—

That pocketbook should be just as open for this long neglected region as it was for wealthy central Canada in the 1950s when the St. Lawrence Seaway was built.

That editorial expresses my thoughts aptly. I simply say to all hon. members that the development of Fundy tidal power is worth examining seriously and I make this plea: Let there be a concerted effort to develop the project, an effort which should be made by the three provinces co-operating with the federal government.

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I was not surprised to see this notice of motion on the order paper. I welcome this motion. I believe that when an hon. member feels as strongly about a subject as the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates), he is under an obligation to not take no for an answer. I think the forum available to him, the House of Commons, ought to be used on every possible occasion for putting forward his point of view. He ought to do this during the question period, as he has, during budget debates, opposition days and in private members' hour, as he has.

Without doubt, Mr. Speaker, his motion has merit. The matter raised by the hon. member has been the subject of a study. I will not labour that point. Some hon. members may wonder why I am speaking on this matter during private members' hour. I say to the mover of the motion and to the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Thomas) that I have lived in northern Ontario for some time and when I have had occasion to go outside Canada I have always been asked, surprisingly, about Niagara Falls and the Bay of Fundy tides? People outside Canada seem to have the idea that these areas are just around the corner from where one lives. I blush in confessing that I have not had the good fortune to see the Bay of Fundy tides. I hope to remedy that situation this summer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cullen: The Bay of Fundy tides have a magical quality. Their quality permeates not only the area that the hon. member for Moncton represents, not only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but all of Canada. I strongly suspect that if some way could be found to take the action suggested by the hon. member, Nova Scotia would

[Mr. Thomas (Moncton).]

certainly benefit as would New Brunswick. Probably the benefits would be even greater, since anything that benefits part of Canada surely benefits the country as a whole.

I have read the report on this subject and undertaken some background studies, and I have read a number of press clippings. As the hon. member for Moncton said, the Premier of Nova Scotia has been criticized in some circles for "going it" alone. Clearly, the point the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North was making was that certain things had to be done and that he was doing them alone. All the same, it was gratifying to hear him pay tribute in this connection to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) and to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Dubé).

I recently read in the *Globe and Mail* that Mr. R. B. Cameron was appointed president of the recently created Tidal Power Corporation by the Premier of Nova Scotia, Gerald Regan. Then the article reads:

A Crown corporation, the new company was funded at \$10 million by legislation at the just completed session of the Nova Scotia legislature to derive power from the Bay of Fundy tides.

The article then says that Premier Regan and Mr. Cameron will leave for Europe to inspect the French tidal power plant in Brittany. It must also be pointed out that the hon. member's motion says, not that the government should consider the advisability of initiating a study but that it should initiate a further study. "Further" is the adjective used. I think this is obligatory because it is incumbent upon those who have the responsibility today to determine whether in this very comprehensive report something was in fact missed, and if there are ways of harnessing this tidal power particularly for the benefit of Canadians in that section of our country.

• (4:30 p.m.)

I want to read a short passage from the Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board's report. It points to what man has been trying to do and what we are endeavouring to do in Canada. I quote:

Over the centuries, mankind, in his quest for survival and his search for a better way of life, has directed his ingenuity to harnessing the forces of nature to his uses. Mastery and utilization of the energy evident in the sun, the wind, the rivers and the tides as well as of the latent sources existing in various elements of the earth has been a much sought goal, wherein the degree of achievement has grown or varied with the development of technical knowledge and its application and with the economic value of the forces to be harnessed.

In our search for this goal we must face the ever present questions, "Is it financially feasible? Is it in fact economically viable?" I understand from officials of the government that the federal government has offered to join with the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in a general review of the findings of the Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board and present comments on the proposed development, with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick representatives, regarding a review