

However, while the practice has developed in this way in the case of formal agreements requiring ratification, it has never been the practice in Canada to ask parliament or the House of Commons to approve agreements which are in the form of exchange of notes. Generally speaking, agreements are made in the form of an exchange of notes either because they are too unimportant for a formal agreement, or because they are intended to be of a temporary character.

In the opinion of the government, it would be a mistake to change the custom still further by asking parliament or the House of Commons to approve exchange of notes.

Following the principles which I have outlined, parliament was not asked to approve the exchange of notes of November, 1940, which authorized a temporary additional diversion at Niagara by the province of Ontario. So far as the question of procedure is concerned, there is no ground for distinction between that exchange of notes and the one signed on May 20, 1941. There was no reason to follow any different procedure on this occasion.

It might be pointed out that neither of these two exchanges of notes requires legislation in order to give them effect in Canada. The only thing which the Canadian government has promised to do in the notes of May 20 is to refrain from objecting to an additional diversion of water by the United States.

The United States government for its part desired to have the approval of the United States Senate before being bound by the latest exchange of notes. It would not be appropriate for me to attempt to explain the reasons for this decision. The constitutional provisions and practice of the United States in the matter of international agreements is, as I have said, not the same as that of Canada. It would not seem desirable that Canada's treaty procedure should be altered solely because the United States Senate is being asked by the United States government to approve this particular exchange of notes.

While it is not the practice in Canada to ask for parliamentary approval of exchange of notes, it is customary and desirable to table any such which are of importance or interest. The purpose of tabling them is not merely to inform the house, but also to provide a basis for debate, if so desired, at the appropriate time.

#### 6. *ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEES OF INQUIRY, PRESS STATEMENT OF JUNE 17, 1941.*

The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America to-day announced that they have established joint com-