

possibly at some site in Nova Scotia would, of course, build up the over-all grid and make tidal power generation possible.

TIDAL POWER FROM BAY OF FUNDY—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER TIDAL POWER PROJECTS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): My supplementary question relates to the method which will be used by the investigators over the next two years in determining the feasibility of constructing dams to harness the Bay of Fundy tides. Will those engaged in updating the information presently in existence with regard to tidal power production involve themselves in examination of the tidal power operation at La Rance, France, on the Severn River in Great Britain and at Kislaya Bay where a Russian development is said to be taking place?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, those engaged in carrying out the further studies which are now the subject of discussion with the provincial governments would, I believe, wish to examine the systems which are already in place; they would like to follow the hon. gentleman's example by investigating them on the scene. Indeed, it might be desirable if he and I were to investigate the two sites he mentioned in the Soviet Union and Great Britain, though preferably at another time of year.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG-RANGE TRANSMISSION GRID—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF WORK OF QUEBEC HYDRO AND NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North in thanking the minister for making the report available. My supplementary arises from the answer given by the Prime Minister a couple of weeks ago on the subject of a long-range transmission grid. Could the hon. gentleman find out what Quebec Hydro and the National Research Council have been doing in connection with long range transmission so that the information going into the Prime Minister's Office can be updated in this respect?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I read the hon. gentleman's question. The principal obstacle to a nationwide grid lies not so much in Quebec as within the Province of Ontario—the linking of northwestern Ontario with the southern part of the province. Ontario Hydro has concluded that for the time being it is not to its advantage to link up the two systems. I can say that the report tabled today does indicate the desirability and the feasibility of better interconnection between the Atlantic provinces and the Province of Quebec in particular—an eastern grid. To a degree there is already such a connection accommodating Churchill Falls power, and the report brings closer the day when there will be further development of connections between those parts of the country.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): The minister has touched upon the very point I am trying to

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make. When he has found out what Quebec Hydro and the National Research Council have done, would he also inform the government of Ontario of the progress which has been made?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would be glad to do so. However, Ontario Hydro is a very experienced and well-advised Crown corporation and I am sure the people there are up to date on these matters. However, I will make certain they are familiar with this additional research.

CHURCHILL FALLS POWER PROJECT—PROPOSED CABLE TUNNEL BETWEEN LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): My question is to the same minister, Mr. Speaker. As a result of his reference to the Lower Churchill and the potential development of an alternate source of energy, would the minister indicate what progress is being made with the Province of Newfoundland as a result of implementing and building up that potential with regard to the transfer of the power, the submittance of the power between Labrador and Newfoundland through a cable tunnel? And if I do not get the chance to ask a supplementary—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marshall:—has there been any indication that there could be terms of reference indicated to enlarge on the cable tunnel to ask for a cable and transmittal tunnel for transit vehicles?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the matter of a connection between Labrador and the island was the subject of discussion with the Newfoundland ministers several weeks ago here. At the moment we are discussing the question of interconnection both in relation to Churchill Falls power and also with respect to the possible development of some sites downstream, particularly at Gull Island. The difficulty is that the construction costs of the downstream sites would be very substantial and would present a considerable financing problem both to the federal and the provincial governments. In these circumstances I think it is not likely there will be provision for pedestrian or vehicular traffic between Labrador and the island in the very near future.

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FINANCE

ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN STATEMENTS IN PAMPHLET "BUDGET IN BRIEF" AND STATEMENTS OF MINISTER

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In the budget address, the hon. gentleman said—and I quote—that he believed the tax cuts "can help to reduce prices and costs." Does the minister have an exact projection of the extent to which prices will be reduced, and, if so, what is it?