

Supply—External Affairs

would indicate briefly what activities, if any, or what responsibilities, if any, the international joint commission currently undertakes with respect to the development of the Columbia river basin. The minister will recall that over quite a period of years the international joint commission had a major responsibility and carried out a major activity in connection with the proposed development of this river. I would like to have the position of the international joint commission, in relationship to the Columbia river basin, clarified while we are on this item.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, as my hon. friend knows, when the proposal for the joint development of the Columbia was first put forward 20 years ago, in accordance with the procedures laid down for study by the international joint commission the governments of both countries decided, first of all, whether or not a reference should be undertaken by the international joint commission. It was after a decision had been taken that there should be such a reference that the international joint commission made a very detailed engineering examination of the whole project.

As a result of that study, which involved over eight years of serious consideration, a formulation of principles was reached and concurred in by the two components of the commission. These principles in turn were accepted by the government of Canada and the government of the United States as the essentials of any proposed treaty between the United States and Canada. The interest of the I.J.C. now, following the ratification of the treaty, arises only in the event of a dispute which cannot be resolved by the two governments. In the event that a dispute does arise in the interpretation of the treaty, then under article 16, I think it is, of the treaty an adjudication is made by the international joint commission.

Mr. Barnett: That means that in effect the international joint commission has no current responsibility for anything that takes place in this connection?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right; no administrative responsibility.

Mr. Barnett: And it would require a reference by the governments of Canada and the United States?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No. If there is a dispute between the two parties and they cannot agree, then the matter is automat-

ically referred by both governments for adjudication to the I.J.C.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister what progress the commission is making in studies on a pooling of the natural resources of Canada and the United States.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any study being made by the joint commission of the pooling of the resources of the two countries. I am wondering whether my hon. friend is thinking about the assignment that has been given to the chairman of the international joint commission, along with Mr. Livingston Merchant, in connection with another matter altogether.

Mr. Fisher: I am thinking about the statement the minister made a little over a year ago, in which he indicated his excitement and enthusiasm for a policy started, I believe, by Mr. Udall that was going to set up sort of the big thing. I believe the minister also indicated in the house and publicly that in this field of resource management the international joint commission would be a good agency to make surveys and studies.

I know the minister likes his speeches put on the record. He likes people to refer to them. He has made a habit of it recently; "My speech of April 19", "My speech of May 26". This was a speech made sometime in October of 1963. Knowing the minister's initiative and dynamic qualities I would assume that since he tossed this suggestion out to the public, something would have resulted, so I think my question is quite natural. Could he just set out what he has done, after making this statement?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I was right in the first instance, Mr. Chairman. We were referring not to the commission as such but to the fact that the chairman of the Canadian section of the commission and Mr. Livingston Merchant, former United States ambassador to Canada, had been selected by both governments to give consideration to the formulation of principles with regard to that matter.

Mr. Fisher: The minister indicated at the time that he did not know whether joint studies would be definitely initiated. He certainly did not make it clear that they would be; he indicated there would have to be some consultation between representatives of both governments. That was a year ago. The pace of things in this particular field is moving with some speed. It is not only a question of power; it is a question of water, natural