

The Point Lepreau nuclear project was estimated to cost between \$400 and \$500 million. It will be in full operation in six to ten years. But my sources tell me that the estimated cost is now \$700 million. Further, nuclear power is an exhaustible source of energy, and the costs will probably be much higher than estimated. Tidal power is not exhaustible, as I said. The Atlantic provinces should consider as a priority the development of tidal power, and perhaps bring up the subject at the next federal-provincial conference.

An alternative solution is to import power from outside Nova Scotia, for example, from Quebec or Labrador. But we have no interprovincial flow of power. For instance, power cannot be transmitted interprovincially as crude oil and gas can be through an interprovincial pipeline.

Mr. McCain: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I do not think the present speaker who has the floor wishes to be inaccurate, but I submit that there is provision for a power interconnection. It is being constantly extended in New Brunswick. It was pioneered in New Brunswick and is hooked up to Nova Scotia. It can bring power from Churchill Falls to Nova Scotia.

Miss Campbell: Mr. Speaker, with respect that is not a question of privilege. The hon. member has his sources of information, and I have mine. I do not see evidence of any existing interprovincial flow of energy which could reach Gull Island.

Mr. McCain: There is provision for transmitting power right now from Churchill Falls to Halifax. The system is in place now.

Miss Campbell: I understand that New Brunswick and Quebec will not allow us to be involved in this. I understand, for instance, that the project at Gull Island could go ahead if it has markets, but there is no interprovincial grid to carry the energy, as there is in the case of interprovincial gas.

Mr. McCain: Nonsense.

Miss Campbell: I ask, should this not be a national priority? As an aside let me say that perhaps Atlantic union would bring one benefit. We should not triple expenditures in the Atlantic provinces and most of our provincial problems would be done away with if there were one system in the Atlantic provinces for carrying energy. I say that as an aside. That should not prevent the National Energy Board from becoming involved with the question of the interprovincial flow of energy. This has already been done in the case of oil and gas.

I think that we should look beyond the interest of the provinces and consider questions of national importance. Under the Churchill Falls agreement Newfoundland perhaps is not receiving as much as it should. When the time of the agreement runs out, Quebec will be the sole bidder for that power. I suggest that no province except Quebec will be in the position to bid for the power.

That brings me to another point. In the last few years in Canada we have seen cartels arise in the west and cartels arise in the east. Nationalism goes out of the door when one begins to think in terms of provincial priorities rather

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than national priorities. I feel that the provinces should be entering into arrangements and taking advantage of the federal government's new energy strategy for Canada. They should consider energy self-reliance within 10 years. But their endeavours should be directed to new areas.

I return again to tidal power. Tidal power is not new, as it has worked at Rance, and other countries are looking into its effectiveness as an endless source of energy. Let the province consider this source of energy. At present we are heading into uncharted areas. We are entering unknown areas. For example, we do not know how much oil and gas we will find; what is the lifetime of nuclear power, and what is the cost of coal and the cost of delivery.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) said that in the next ten years we shall spend more than \$10 billion in 1975 dollars on exploration and development with regard to oil and gas. So, why not consider tidal power? It is proven and certainly an inexhaustible source. We could consider this possibility without lessening our search for oil and gas.

Perhaps the provinces should strongly stress conservation measures at this time. The insulation of homes should become a priority and there is need, for a scheme which will involve an incentive to individuals, perhaps with easy financing. No doubt we could lower room temperatures without any of us being hurt. The short term elements of saving will be in the conservation area, and we will be looking at coal-generating power. But let us not think that Nova Scotia is unique, and that other areas will not be looking at the example we set. I feel that the provinces should take advantage of the schemes laid out in "An Energy Strategy for Canada", particularly at page 28 where it is said that:

The Government of Canada will continue its policy of funding 50 per cent of approved studies of interprovincial and interregional electrical interconnections, and financing up to 50 per cent of the capital cost of approved projects. In view of the objective of minimizing Canadian dependence on imported oil, the federal government believes that the development of regional electrical interconnections, particularly in eastern Canada, should be accelerated.

I see that it is almost ten o'clock. I look forward to greater consideration by all provinces of what I consider a national issue and I do hope that the best solution will be achieved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to Section 11 of Standing Order 58, the proceedings on the motion have now expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.