

would be placed in position between November 1, 1978, and January 31, 1979. Subsequently, on July 17, 1979, the Laurentian region reported that the work had been completed in accordance with the plans approved under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. In a letter dated August 7, 1979, the Canadian Hydrographic Service was provided with two copies of the work plans for charting action.

In summary, in the case of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence river power line crossings to which the hon. member has referred, the application of the Navigable Waters Protection Act was carried out with relatively little dialogue necessary between Hydro-Quebec and the Department of Transport. The applicant, Hydro-Quebec, adhered to the stipulations of the requirements of the Navigable Waters Protection Act in a complete and prompt manner. This compliance was quickly followed by government approval.

I hope I have been able to clarify matters surrounding the hon. member's motion and I trust he will agree that the related events were simple and the procedures adopted were straightforward.

I might add in closing that copies of the documentation concerning these two NWPA approval cases are available from the official Transport Canada files upon request from interested parties.

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, may I speak in conclusion?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) will close the debate.

Mr. Herbert: Mr. Speaker, my reason initially for proposing this motion was the interest which was aroused some six or seven years ago as a result of the expressed intention of Hydro-Quebec to export electricity to the United States. At that time it became apparent that these high tension lines were to cross the constituency of Vaudreuil which I represent. I received at that time many representations from interested persons, in the constituency and outside, on a variety of aspects which I have touched upon in my previous remarks, not only concerning whether or not we should be exporting electricity but also concerning environmental questions, and matters respecting the fact that in the constituency of Vaudreuil there are small airports and therefore these power lines could have some effect on the pilots of small planes. Concern was also expressed about the effect on navigation, and so on.

I put many questions on the order paper some five years ago and I received a variety of answers. Perhaps my greatest disappointment was when I heard that the then minister of energy, mines and resources had not expressed any great interest in the subject of the export of electricity to the United States. I made a request for these documents to be produced in the hope that they would contain further clarification of the position of the various government departments concerned.

When the parliamentary secretary advised us that the documents were voluminous and as a result, as he said, could be produced only at an inordinate cost and would take an inordi-

nate length of time to prepare, I requested that the subject be transferred for debate, my reason at that time being that unless I did exactly that, I would not have the additional opportunity, as I have had today, to talk about the contents of the documents in question.

Of course, the initial reason for requesting that the documents be tabled was that these papers might be available to the public.

As I said earlier, it has become apparent in this instance, as in the previous instance, that the essential problem was one of translation, not one of the size of the documents. However, having said that, I have received the documents in question in the French language only and I have reviewed them. It has given us the opportunity this afternoon to talk a little about what we are doing in this country on a province by province basis in the field of electricity and about the problem of the province of Newfoundland which is selling 84 per cent of its electrical production to the province of Quebec at what is by today's criteria a very low price indeed, while the province of Quebec is, in turn, exporting electricity to the United States, Hydro-Quebec making in the process a fairly substantial profit. I feel that if we are to maintain a federal state an increased interest in this activity must be shown by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Having said that, there is obviously no point in pursuing this matter any further at this time. My colleagues and I have had the opportunity to air the subject, and I therefore request the consent of the House to withdraw the motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Hon. members have heard the request of the hon. member for Vaudreuil. Is there agreement to allowing the hon. member to withdraw the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It is ordered that motion No. 7 be withdrawn.

Mr. Knowles: Six o'clock!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it agreed that we call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At 5.50 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.