

Columbia River Treaty

officials in the foreign office, an almost unheard of thing in Great Britain. They said they were hangovers from the Victorian era who should be booted out, and no one questioned their right to use that strong language in respect to civil servants. This subject may be developed in this house at a later stage in our discussions on estimates.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who has spoken the harshest words about the civil servants? The hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne), the present parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour, said on December 13, 1962, as reported at 2642 of *Hansard* for that year, the following. Mind you, this is a man who now sits close to the seats of the mighty, and I hope that all those present who are interested will listen carefully to this. He said:

It will be remembered that the Canadian team consisted first of the minister himself—

That is Mr. Fulton.

—who has been described by some of the Conservative papers as a brilliant young man. With that I am prepared to agree in that he is a Rhodes scholar; but he is not a hydroelectric engineer and I am sure he has had very little training in engineering. Then there was Mr. Robertson, deputy minister of northern affairs and national resources. I question whether he has any training in electrical engineering or hydro development.

You should see, Mr. Speaker, the dozens of letters on complex engineering problems which Mr. Robertson signed, but I will come to that later.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is my hon. friend referring to Mr. Gordon Robertson?

Mr. Herridge: Yes.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am sure my hon. friend agrees that Mr. Gordon Robertson's knowledge of this subject—

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am saying this in fairness to a public servant.

Mr. Douglas: He is not referring to a public servant. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has the floor is not referring to a public servant but is reading a statement made by the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) with regard to a public servant.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Oh, I am sorry.

Mr. Herridge: I am quoting your own side.

Mr. Douglas: This is when you were on this side criticizing public servants.

[Mr. Herridge.]

Mr. Herridge: The hon. member for Kootenay East went on:

Another member of the team was Mr. Ritchie of the Department of External Affairs, a man with very little knowledge of hydroelectric development. Finally, there was Mr. Bassett, the deputy minister of lands and forests of the province of British Columbia.

I am not saying that, Mr. Speaker. I have talked to a number of dear old ladies in Ottawa who tell me that Mr. Ritchie is a wonderful young man and they are very fond of him. They speak of him in the highest terms and cannot quite understand why he has followed this path lately.

The hon. member for Kootenay East went on:

On the negotiating team for the United States there was Mr. Bennett, assistant secretary of the department of interior of the United States. In this capacity he has been working on power system administration for many years. He heads the branch that deals with and sells all federally generated power in the United States including such projects as the Tennessee valley authority, the Bonneville power administration and so forth. General Istchner has been concerned with the Columbia river since early 1950.

He is chief of the army engineers and head of the Pacific northwest division of the corps of army engineers, in which region the Columbia river is situated. In addition to being chief of the corps of army engineers he held the position of head of the United States section of the international Columbia engineering board, and he entered into the negotiations with complete and comprehensive knowledge of the subject.

He mentioned that to illustrate that he thought our people did not have complete and comprehensive knowledge of the subject.

Mr. Byrne: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Herridge: Certainly, if I do not have time taken off because of it.

Mr. Byrne: Will the hon. member not agree that is the identical information General McNaughton supplied both to the hon. member and myself during those discussions and that I have subsequently said, having gained further knowledge, that I believe that the Canadian negotiators and engineers were some of the most important on this continent?

Mr. Herridge: Yes, that is quite correct since the hon. gentleman became a parliamentary secretary, but not before. Before, he tramped up and down Kootenay East telling the people that the McNaughton plan was the plan.

An hon. Member: Tell the whole story.

Mr. Herridge: I will tell the whole story. I have a lot more to tell, old boy. We did not