

When in Nova Scotia, the minister pointed the finger of scorn at the leader of this party because he convinced the people of that province that they should become involved in the construction of a heavy water plant. The minister laughs at the people of Nova Scotia. He has the impression that we are a bunch of rubes or hicks because we became involved in something that was new and not technically feasible. Because we got into difficulty, the minister derides the Leader of the Opposition. He says that we acted in a stupid manner. The same minister who made fun of the Leader of the Opposition is responsible for a scheme whereby the people of Canada have invested \$90 million in a plant which is producing electricity that is costing the taxpayers of this nation twice as much as it should. If the minister feels he can justify that type of proposition, that is dandy.

The minister has pointed the finger of scorn at the Leader of the Opposition by saying that at the heavy water plant a plaque should be erected which reads "Bob Stanfield slept here". I say that a plaque should be put on the Douglas Point plant which reads "Joe Greene slept here, and every day he sleeps here it costs 50 cents for every dollar's worth of fuel that is produced".

**Mr. Greene:** That hurts!

**Mr. Coates:** The point is not whether we run into problems with new technology when trying to produce energy; it is that the tides going in and out of the Bay of Fundy can be used to produce energy. The experts say that it can now be produced at a saleable price and in amounts that are almost unbelievable. There is no source in Canada that can produce the kind of power which the tides in the Bay of Fundy can produce. We have invested \$2.25 million to determine whether dams can be built to harness the tides. The engineering and economic experts say they can be built. The President of the Treasury Board agrees that this power can be produced, but says it will cost too much. There are a great many experts who are knowledgeable in the field.

**Mr. Greene:** Who?

**Mr. Coates:** Who said "Who?"

**An hon. Member:** The minister.

**Mr. Coates:** I can send the minister an article from the *Evening Times* which quotes the experts. It is a sad situation when the minister does not know who these experts are. It should not be up to me to supply the minister with this information.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Coates:** If the minister were really concerned about the Atlantic provinces, he would consider undertaking this project which is as big as anything ever imagined in this country. Instead of asking me "Who?" the minister should know the name of every expert. His interjection demonstrates the interest he has in the Atlantic provinces. It is obvious that the minister is saying "My mandarins tell me that it cannot be done".

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

**Mr. Greene:** Yours too?

**Mr. Coates:** Not mine.

**Mr. Greene:** Nova Scotians.

**Mr. Coates:** If the Nova Scotia mandarins are saying this to the minister, why are the same mandarins, including the Premier of Nova Scotia, talking to the Rothschilds, the public utilities in the New England states and others? They are doing so because they know there are these markets. They are talking to the Rothschilds because they know that the money can be produced. The federal government has a very real interest in this matter. If the power can be produced, we should produce it. If we produce it, we shall be able to sell it. The longer we delay producing it, the longer it will be before we can sell it, because it will take at least ten years to build the dams to harness the tides.

• (3:20 p.m.)

The President of the Treasury Board is laughing to himself. I can understand his laughing, because this matter concerns the Atlantic provinces. He comes from Montreal and he does not give a damn what happens in the Atlantic provinces.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Coates:** If the President of the Treasury Board is really interested in protecting the taxpayers' dollar, I would remind him that he has a \$2.25 million investment in the report of the programming board. If he is really interested in protecting that investment, he will see that the report is brought up to date so that it can be utilized and work can go forward as quickly as the economic evidence deems advisable. The report is no good today because it is outdated. It is the minister's duty to see that this deficiency is rectified.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Chairman, I have listened with interest to the debate on part II of the reorganization bill, the part which deals with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. I listened with particular interest to the preceding speaker's views on the subject of generating power from the tides of the Bay of Fundy.

Earlier we heard a speech by the leader of my party, in the course of which he asked a number of interesting questions about government policy. I am sure we are all anxiously waiting to hear from the minister just what the plans of the government are. If there was ever a mixed-up program it is in the field of energy policy. The minister has time and time again made trips to the United States as well as to various parts of Canada, and on every occasion he has adopted a different approach to the question of how Canada's energy resources are to be used.

**An hon. Member:** He is flexible.

**Mr. Harding:** I'll say he is flexible! We might have another word for it. It is high time the Canadian people knew where the government is going as far as the overall development of our energy resources is concerned.