

Northwest Territories Power Commission

line, but perhaps we might have a few more details in connection with that particular matter.

The fifth thing is with respect to certain administrative changes which I believe the minister indicated did not amount to much. He might perhaps give us some indication of what they are.

Mr. Lesage: The first question of the hon. member for Calgary North has to do with the present activities of the Northwest Territories Power Commission in the Yukon. I may say that the commission has one plant in the Yukon which is in operation at the present time. It is at Mayo, which is northeast of Whitehorse and it supplies the power for the zinc-lead-silver mines at United Keno. The other two existing plants of the commission are in the Northwest Territories. One is a hydro plant at Snare river which supplies power for Yellowknife and its gold mines. The other one is a diesel plant at Fort Smith. As to the projected plants, one is in the Yukon, a hydro plant for Whitehorse.

I shall immediately reply to one of the questions asked by the hon. member. The commission's engineers are now doing a survey at Whitehorse so they can choose between two sites. This is the reason for the revolving fund. That provision is made so the engineering surveys for the power sites can be made. The cost of the survey will be attributed to the project when the project is feasible. When it is not feasible, the next year we will seek a parliamentary appropriation to reimburse the revolving fund.

In the Northwest Territories there are two projected plants of the commission. One is at Aklavik. For that one I gave details. There is also a projected diesel plant at Fort Simpson. There are many places in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon where power is supplied by private enterprise. This is a further reply to the hon. member for St. Paul's.

I believe the hon. member for Calgary North had a good point when he raised the question of the supply of natural gas. Before the bill comes up for second reading I shall take the matter up with the officers of the commission.

Mr. Harkness: There is no provision in the bill?

Mr. Lesage: I do not believe there is. I shall have to read the bill carefully again. I will discuss the matter with the law officers and also with the members of the commission, because I believe the hon. member for Calgary North has a good point.

Mr. Leboe: Mr. Chairman—

[Mr. Harkness.]

Mr. Lesage: May I just finish my reply? The hon. member for Calgary North also mentioned the possible development of the rapids between Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith on the Slave river. As he says, there is a hydro power potential there of a little over a quarter of a million horsepower. This might be useful in the future for mineral development, especially on the south shores of Great Slave lake, including the Pine Point site. Of course, according to the amendments that will be introduced, the commission would have the power to develop this potential according to the laws of the province and with the permission of the province of Alberta.

As the hon. member stated, this power could really be developed only to supply the Northwest Territories. This would not be a source of power for Alberta, because the transmission lines would be too long; it would really be a source of power for the Northwest Territories. It might well be that private enterprise would become interested in developing it. Since the commission does not operate a monopoly, the development might become a reality without the commission having to develop the site itself. But according to the amendments which are proposed, it would have the power to do it, with the necessary licensing from the province.

I believe those were all of the questions asked by the hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Harkness: Yes.

Mr. Leboe: I have just two questions. I should like to know whether the power commission is subsidized. Does it pay its own way with the revenue that comes in? I should also like to know what would be the relationship, for instance, with a power development in northern British Columbia such as Frobisher. Would there be any possibility of joint action in any way in connection with power development?

Mr. Lesage: The power commission is not subsidized except to the extent that we might seek parliamentary appropriations for these surveys for sites which are not developed because the result of the survey is negative. As to the second question, this Frobisher project is a private enterprise project and there has never been any question of it having any kind of relationship with the Northwest Territories Power Commission.

Mr. Green: The Frobisher plan envisaged the production of a great deal of hydroelectric power, far more than would be used for mining purposes in the Yukon. Apparently that plan has now been stalled. I wonder whether the minister could tell the committee