

St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act

and in consultation with each other. It is not only one, but three. He would have seen further that the decisions of the St. Lawrence seaway authority are taken after consultation by the members with each other. Those decisions can be found in the minutes of the St. Lawrence seaway authority from day to day, from week to week, and often meetings were held twice a week. Also, if he had consulted the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act he would have seen how the method of borrowing by the St. Lawrence seaway authority is established and proceeded with.

Since he does not know it, I will have to tell him how it is done. It is done pursuant to section 80 of the Financial Administration Act, which says that each corporation under schedule D—and the St. Lawrence seaway authority is a corporation under that schedule—shall submit a capital budget for the next financial year, a budget which must be approved of by order in council before it is tabled in the house. So that every budget of the St. Lawrence seaway authority which was produced in the house and tabled here, either by the previous administration or by this administration, has had to obtain the approval of the governor in council, has had to obtain the approval of the government, and has had to obtain the approval of the former government. As I shall show in a moment, the details of this may astound my hon. friend.

Mr. Tremblay: Pas de colère.

Mr. Chevrier: My hon. friend says "pas de colère". I shall do my best not to lose my temper, because I could lose it in the face of some of these ridiculous accusations which we have heard of today. I go on. Section 85 of the Financial Administration Act says that the corporation must file a balance sheet, and must furthermore file an annual report within three months after the termination of the year, containing a statement of account of the balance sheet which must be submitted to parliament. As I said earlier, the St. Lawrence seaway authority, acting under the authority of the Minister of Finance, must lay before parliament a report on every loan made to the authority in order to allow it to pay for the expenditures which are from time to time made by that authority.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Who let these major contracts?

Mr. Chevrier: Let me go on and you will see who let them.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): To the extent of \$19 million.

Mr. Chevrier: I am dealing now with some of the charges of my hon. friend, and if he

will allow me to pursue them I think I can show of just what material those charges are made.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): They are not charges; they are the truth.

Mr. Chevrier: Let me stick to the facts. The first budget which was tabled in this house was tabled when I was president of the St. Lawrence seaway authority by the former government and is for the year 1955. It provides, as the Minister of Transport has already stated, for a capital expenditure for the year 1955 of \$205,535,000, detailed in three pages. That was tabled in parliament, and dealing with the Welland ship canal there is an item of \$2,025,000.

Then the following year, 1956, there was again tabled the budget of the St. Lawrence seaway authority, again in three pages and in great detail. It divided the sections of the seaway into their various amounts and the total expenditure for the year 1956 was \$213 million; for the Welland canal section it was, \$3,510,000 in 1956. Parliament therefore had an opportunity in 1956 and in 1957 of seeing not only these two estimates which I mentioned, but also of voting them.

Then came the year 1957. I cannot remember, of course, if I was still president when this was tabled because I do not remember the date on which it was tabled. I retired as president of the St. Lawrence seaway authority in April 1957.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): They were tabled while your government was still in power.

Mr. Chevrier: Be that as it may, your government was in office from the month of June 1957 until the end of the year and had the opportunity of considering these estimates. Now, what were they? Let the house see what they were. They amounted to \$284 million, and when you come to the detail for the Welland canal section it had reached \$23,925,000. That was voted by the hon. gentleman's friends when they were in office, and when he was there did he criticize this estimate for the Welland canal? Not a word. Not a whimper.

Then came the year 1958, when again the budget of the St. Lawrence seaway authority was tabled by the present government, under the direction of the present Minister of Transport. And what have we got? We have estimates this time amounting to \$322 million, and for the Welland canal section, \$25,973,000. That was last year. Did the hon. member for Carleton say a word about this?

An hon. Member: Not a word.

Mr. Chevrier: Did the hon. member for Carleton discover last year that there was