

I said that British Columbia was faced with two dangers. The first of these—the possible taking by foreign vessels of untold quantities of fish from waters upon which Canadian fishermen depend for their livelihood—very likely confronts the Atlantic provinces as well. British Columbia's second danger arises from the recent move by the great aluminum trust to capture inland waters for hydro-electric purposes. Huge dams are being contemplated in the interior, at Nechako and Chilko. I will not engage in an extensive discussion of the matter this afternoon, for I expect to make more speeches. For the time being I merely draw attention to these two dangers. I may be reminded that water rights are under the control of the province, and it may be said that the federal government has no power to interfere in this matter. That may be right, but I prophesy that in days to come, after the Aluminum Company gets this project in operation—if it ever does—the federal government will be asked to investigate this company or cartel. I do not know whether the public is aware that in 1944 the company was investigated in the United States. I have here a copy of the report of that investigation. If this company, which is power-hungry, gets away with its activities at Nechako or Chilko, it will wipe out three-quarters of the sockeye salmon fishing industry on the Fraser River.

A report was made on this question by the Attorney-General of the United States, and those of us who are believers in free enterprise should take note of it. Competition does not automatically take its proper place just because the war is over. The Attorney-General of the United States in a letter accompanying the report on the Aluminum Company says:

Unless necessary measures are taken immediately, independent businessmen will not have a fair opportunity in this industry . . .

It may be true that in certain instances cartels and combines have provided the public with cheaper goods than might otherwise be produced. As one who believes in freedom and free enterprise, I contend that we must keep competition alive; but when men bind themselves together, as this company has done, to keep others from coming into the industry, that is leaning towards communism. I warn the people of this country, particularly the people of British Columbia, against what the government of

that province proposes to do in the way of handing over one of its greatest heritages to perhaps the largest combine in the world. That organization controls aluminum resources not only in Canada but elsewhere outside of this country. Some time ago it grabbed off Arvida. I am not at all sure that it cannot be blamed for stopping action on the part of the United States in carrying out the St. Lawrence Waterway Treaty, as the carrying out of that scheme might interfere with its interests.

Honourable senators, I shall have more to say about this subject later. For the present I am content to lay these matters before you. I hold the view that we are here with a duty to perform, namely, to watch over the rights of all the people. I do not say what I have said because I am a member of the Senate; those who sat with me in the other house know that I have many times stood up and fearlessly said what I believed to be in the interests of the Canadian people. I believe that every honourable senator will agree that that is one of the duties which we should unselfishly carry out.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned and being come with their Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Right Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.