

*Newfoundland Hydro*

The NEB will be able to regulate interprovincial power lines which may, in the future, be designated as falling within its jurisdiction. Authority for these designated lines has been added to the board's mandate to ensure that authority exists to permit construction of a dedicated power line between two provinces through a third.

The amendments also grant the board authority to expropriate the necessary rights-of-way for both international and the designated interprovincial power lines. This will provide treatment for power lines analogous to that accorded pipelines.

I should say that this has never been decided in law. The Supreme Court case may be helpful, although it may not settle the issue. According to Professor John Laskin at the University of Toronto, one of the finest law schools in the country, it has been established by the Federal Court that pipelines can go across provincial boundaries, but the issue is yet to arise with the interprovincial transmission of electric power. Therefore, it is a complicated issue.

There are negotiations being carried on between the governments of Quebec and Newfoundland over this issue. I believe it would be better to await the outcome of these negotiations. If you listen to the debate, as you have, Mr. Speaker, on this and on Bill C-48 which we have been debating, you can see the kind of anger and frustration that some of the members on my right feel. They kid me a lot and I kid them, but I can pick up the regional anger and frustration. They are saying, "By God, Ontario did that to us for hundreds of years." I think the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) expressed it best. I will not quote him directly, but to paraphrase his remarks, he indicated that Ontario did it to them for hundreds of years, that is, it controlled energy and so on, and that they would do it to Ontario now. We can see the anger and frustration, but unfortunately a country cannot be governed consistently on anger and frustration. There must be some equity and some justice. The hon. member for St. John's West appealed rather eloquently for the justice of the Newfoundland case. On its face, it seems to be a bad contract. I have learned much from what he said, but I note that he ran for Mr. Smallwood and the Liberal Party in 1966, approximately six years after the negotiation of the contract. Presumably he supported the policies of the then premier, Mr. Smallwood. I am sure even the hon. member in his wisdom could not have foreseen the increases in energy prices and their effects on the old contract, the old deal.

● (1630)

I should like to refer to some remarks made by a past prime minister, the late Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, as reported on page 2145 of *Hansard* for April 14, 1964, as well as some of his remarks later on. He said:

[*Translation*]

It is the task of parliament, without regard to party; it is the challenge of statesmanship rising above faction, to find the solutions to our problems which are now more serious and more difficult than any we have faced in peacetime since 1867.

[*English*]

I especially like the lines where Mr. Pearson went on to say:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pearson was referring to the problems with Quebec during the sixties. He discussed the quiet revolution in Quebec which strangely enough, Mr. Speaker, offers a number of similarities with the kind of economic revolution western Canada is going through at the present time. Mr. Speaker, former Prime Minister Pearson said, and I quote:

We must find these solutions by agreement, not force them by compulsion. We cannot hope to find such agreement in our country if we cannot find a basis for it in our parliament.

[*English*]

I take it he was setting forth the general principle that we should try to settle things by co-operation. That would be the best way in delicate interprovincial matters. The best way to settle the dispute between Newfoundland and Quebec is by negotiation. We on this side of the House recognize that there are arguments on both sides and that the dispute must be settled by negotiation.

The hon. member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell) recently returned from a trip to Labrador. She told me that Labradorians feel quite separate from Newfoundland, and that they act accordingly. Anyway, they prefer to be called Labradorians rather than Newfoundlanders. I suspect much of this is caused by their isolation from Newfoundland. They indicated to the hon. member that they would like a redistribution of federal representation to ensure that they would have their own representative from Labrador, rather than counting on an islander, who apparently never visits them. Certainly it would be helpful to have a member from Labrador in the House who could express their case just as forcefully, or perhaps even more forcefully than it was expressed today by the hon. member for St. John's West.

I understand as well that Labrador is not very happy with the deal between Newfoundland and Quebec over Churchill. They would like to use Churchill as a regional economic base from which to develop Labrador. It sounds similar to some of the arguments in the north concerning the development of megaprojects—there is much rhetoric but there are very few local benefits. I might add that the hon. member for St. John's avoided any heights of rhetoric that I have sometimes heard from him in the House in order to lay the facts before us. It might be interesting to note what the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said in 1972 when the power was finally turned on at Churchill Falls. As reported in the *Toronto Star*, he said:

—he proclaimed the project begged "comparison with the pyramids but with a usefulness which promises the benefits of a Nile."

There was much promise when that project happened. By using our heads, being very rational, with a little give and take on both sides, we should realize that, on the one side, this is a very bad contract for the government and the people of Newfoundland, and, on the other side, that the Quebec government goes back a long way and feels aggrieved by the loss of Labrador—there may be some solution through continued