

Beechwood Power Project Loan

difficulty financing their projects, that they are a relatively under-developed section of our nation and that such a policy would help to give them the same kind of treatment and power facilities that are available in other parts of the country.

However, I do agree with the hon. member for Bonaville-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill) when he says that the government in presenting a power program to parliament should present an over-all program, should present a national policy and should not continue to present a bits and pieces policy, a hit and miss policy, a catch as catch can policy which overlooks the very legitimate needs of many sections of our nation. I think other provinces have claims that require action by the government and I cannot understand why during all the discussion that has taken place on this bill and the resolution that preceded it we have not been able to get from the government a statement of their power policy and their intentions affecting other provinces.

I am not at all certain that the terms of the bill are as generous as they might be. It would seem to me that the repayment period of eight years may be rather burdensome for the province of New Brunswick. It may be that before the eight years elapse there will have to be an extension of the period of time for repayment. I think the period of up to 30 years in the other measure having to do with power plants is more appropriate and that the government should consider applying such a period to this particular proposal.

But I do want to say to the government that if people in other parts of Canada are to have their power needs met it is up to the government to give the same kind of study and consideration to legitimate requirements in other provinces. Last year the province from which I come spent \$60 million in developing power plants. I am informed that the power corporation of that province has already borrowed to the maximum extent allowed the corporation by law, namely \$150 million.

Saskatchewan may not require the same kind of policy as provided in the case of Beechwood to take care of things that have been done in the past but if Saskatchewan is to meet its power requirements in the future some assistance will have to be given to that province so that the burden of a further large expansion of power development can be met.

Reference has already been made to a statement made by Premier Matheson of Prince Edward Island and I should like to quote it again. In the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* of January 13 there is the following:

[Mr. Argue.]

Premier Matheson of Prince Edward Island said on arrival in Ottawa on Sunday his group will seek a better deal for the maritimes from the Liberal party.

I imagine that better deal can be obtained much more readily now since it merely involves the passing of a resolution at a convention than it could have been obtained when the Liberals were in power and the attainment of it meant the provision of real sums of money. The article continues:

Prime Minister Diefenbaker is giving it to us, so why can't the Liberals? . . . That's why the Liberals were defeated last June. They didn't give the maritimes half a deal.

Yet when we are discussing the very project before the house this afternoon we are not able, so far as people on the prairies are concerned, to get from the government the half a deal to which Premier Matheson referred. I suggest that the government should learn from the misfortunes of the Liberal party last June and not commit in Saskatchewan and the prairie provinces generally precisely the same political mistake that the Liberals committed as far as the Atlantic provinces were concerned. I want to emphasize the statement in the paper that "Prime Minister Diefenbaker is giving it to us so why can't the Liberals".

I want to say I was pleased earlier today when the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) announced, prior to the commencement of the deliberations of the Liberal convention, certain action that would be taken in the field of social security. I suggest to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) and to his colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Hamilton), that they should press on the government and the Prime Minister the need for the Prime Minister to make a statement in the house tomorrow, in advance of any other deliberations that may take place, that will give the people of Saskatchewan and western Canada at least the half a deal that is being provided by this bill for the people of New Brunswick.

When the question is put on the bill I do not think that a single member of the House of Commons will oppose the measure and in my opinion that is the way it should be.

I feel that when it comes to voting on measures which may not benefit the particular area from which a member comes, although there are some exceptions to this, hon. members should be guided by the belief that the government will make certain the good effects of this legislation are applied to other parts of Canada. We, of course, are delighted to support this measure. If the government should make the very serious mistake of failing to make this type of legislation available to other parts of Canada that will not change our opinion that this