

the energy board will be looking at this aspect with a great deal of interest.

We welcome this announcement, and we are glad the federal government has begun to show some interest in northern development.

Mr. E. R. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister's statement will be welcomed by the people of Manitoba as well as by the provincial authorities. I did not hear some of the remarks made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, particularly the one which caused such a flutter among those sitting on the Conservative benches. For my part I do not think this is the right time to make any sort of partisan comment. I merely say that the development of the energy potential of the Nelson river has been under constant study for the past four years. Finally we have an undertaking that substantial federal support will be forthcoming.

I think it should be borne in mind by both levels of government that in developing these sources of electric power we should try at all times to plan for the maximum utilization of this energy within Canada. I realize that in the short run most of this power will have to be exported to markets across the line. Nevertheless, I hope the government will always be mindful that in the long run the utilization of this energy should be planned with the needs of the Canadian consumer in mind.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, each time the government says it will contribute to the economic development of the country, we are very happy to hear it. To our minds, the important undertaking just announced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) with regard to the province of Manitoba and the whole of Western Canada, will greatly help that section of the country.

However, other undertakings just as important are possible and needed in other regions of the country. Be that as it may I repeat that each time the government announces some economic development, we welcome the news.

As the previous speaker said, this is not the time to indulge in political partisanship, although the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) did so a little earlier, claiming that the Nelson river exists in Manitoba thanks to the Conservatives.

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Nelson River Power Development

He seems to forget that it was under a Conservative government that Canada went through its worst times—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Caouette:—when we had a million unemployed in Canada. He seems to forget, Mr. Speaker, that the economic development of the country—

• (2:50 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take the liberty to remind the hon. member of the dispositions of standing order 15(2)(a), which provides that members may comment briefly on the subject matter of the announcement made, and should not make any statement that might provoke debate. So I invite the hon. member for Villeneuve to limit his remarks to the substance, to the essence of the statement made by the right hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief, but I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the same thing could have been done to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, when he had the floor.

In any event, I sincerely believe that the reason why these developments are now taking place in Manitoba or elsewhere in Canada is the fact that the Conservatives are no longer in office.

[English]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure all Canadians rejoice when announcements are made such as we heard today, which indicate further development of the tremendous resources we have in Canada. I found myself wondering, as I heard the Prime Minister's announcement, whether this is an indication of governmental policy which may help by sharing the cost of transmission lines from such hydroelectric developments as the Peace river. I am sure in that case the cost will be much more than the \$120 million referred to when it comes to the construction of similar transmission lines to the lower mainland. The same could be true of Hamilton Falls as well.

We would hope the policy just announced will be reflected in the fiscal policies to be worked out with the provinces relating to similar cost sharing programs.