

*The Budget—Mr. A. W. Stuart*

kind of budget we could expect from the hon. member should he ever become minister of finance.

I should like to deal for a few minutes with the speech made by the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell) on April 27. I want to say at the outset that the remarks I am making now would never have been made if the hon. member for Saint John-Albert and the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) had not stood up in this house and made such foolish and childish remarks. I want to say right now that there is no one in New Brunswick whom I fear in so far as expressing views are concerned. I have never had any fear of expressing my views, but I do abhor remarks such as these. I have never interfered in any way with the hon. member for Saint John-Albert or the hon. member for Royal. They both thought that they had me backed up against the wall when they challenged the New Brunswick members to express their views.

I am going to meet that challenge in my humble way. I regret that I was not in the house at the time the hon. member for Saint John-Albert spoke. I was attending a meeting of the external affairs committee and did not hear what he said. However, in the meantime I have read what he said very carefully and have decided that it definitely requires an answer. I hope that the *Saint John Telegraph-Journal* will give my remarks the same publicity they gave his, because I want the people in the province to know where I stand.

In his remarks on April 27 the hon. member for Saint John-Albert apparently had one thought in mind—anyone reading his speech I am sure will be convinced that it is exactly as I say—and that was to convince the people of New Brunswick that the only representation they had in the house came from Saint John. I realize that from a political standpoint this young gentleman is perhaps still a little damp behind the ears and it will take some little time for him to become acclimated. For that reason I want to answer him. The hon. member said, as reported on page 3229 of *Hansard*:

We have in New Brunswick a large amount of undeveloped natural power in our rivers. The situation began to take form in 1945 under the Liberal government then in power in the province.

The hon. member then went on to refer to the great boost that had been given since the government changed two years ago. I want to tell the hon. member for Saint John-Albert that the Liberal government which had been in power for 17 years had the Beechwood project well under way in so far as the engineering work was concerned. That was the situation when the

Conservatives took power because four months from the time they took over, the report was completely finalized.

I wonder also if he would accuse Liberal members—federal or provincial—from New Brunswick of selling our birthright and heritage at Grand Falls; this was one of the most economical power projects in our province. In the grand Tory betrayal a few years ago, they gave it away. That is the power that we need today. At the time it was given away, I am quite sure that the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) was a provincial member. The hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell) should know by this time that I never hesitate to express my views, and I believe that when I express them I call a spade a spade. That is what I intend to do for a few minutes this afternoon. There is another statement of his that I question greatly. He stated, and I quote from page 3231 of *Hansard* of April 27, 1955:

I refer particularly to one other matter that I put in the same category, namely atomic power development in the country. When plans were lined up and we realized, perhaps a few years ahead of time, that there was some hope for nuclear development of power we in the maritimes—New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—naturally felt that we would be given the first choice. Here was the area in Canada that everybody said he wanted to help. Here was the area that had the labour, that had the initiative and that had everything except the power. We were told that on many occasions. But what happens when atomic energy comes around the corner? What do the central provinces do? By some devious method they either hinder our chance to take part in this development, or they completely exclude us from it.

Now, the hon. gentleman put those remarks on the record. We all remember when the Right Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced that all provincial hydro companies would be welcomed to Chalk River to study with federal engineers the development of power from atomic energy. To my knowledge, at the present time the only province that accepted that offer was the province of Ontario. The hon. member for Saint John-Albert tries to make us believe that we have been squeezed out. I would like to say at this point that it might have been possible for Premier Frost to have decided to come down and develop atomic energy in New Brunswick but, human nature being what it is, he decided otherwise.

The only people today who can be held responsible for the attitude toward atomic energy in New Brunswick is the provincial government we have at the present time, and no one knows that better than the hon. member for Saint John-Albert. They were invited to take part in this development and absolutely refused. They were not interested.