

Columbia River Treaty

was advised that it would have to be tabled before the house adjourned for the Christmas holidays, and under the circumstances that was all I could do at the time.

In any event, the anxiety of the hon. member for Essex East is not wholly justified, because since he has read the report he will know that it is in almost the same tone and, as a matter of fact, is a facsimile of the report made earlier in the year by the same committee. There is nothing new in the report. The state of the fund has been well known to everybody in this country. It has been referred to in the press.

The committee does recommend that certain changes be made, and I want to bring to the attention of the hon. member for Essex East that in the speech from the throne it is set out that the government intends to bring in amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that as the hon. member for Essex East has expressed his views and has not submitted a motion, I may let the matter rest there.

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING OF TREATY ON JANUARY 17**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at this time I wish to announce that tomorrow in Washington the treaty for the co-operative development of the Columbia river basin will be signed by the President of the United States and two others from that country and by myself, the Minister of Justice and the Canadian ambassador to the United States.

This treaty marks the successful outcome of nearly three years of intensive work on a project which we believe will bring great benefits in years to come to both Canada and the United States. Indeed, this will be an historic occasion in the relations between our two nations, showing to all the world the benefits that can accrue when nations, while having their differences, have common objectives and a desire for peace and the attainment of those things which are the attributes of peace.

After the signing of the treaty statements setting out the situation will be made both by the administration of the United States and by myself on behalf of the government of Canada. I should have liked to be able to make a full report to the house, but realizing that as soon as the signatures have been applied a statement will be forthcoming by the other signatory, I intend to make available then a summary of the terms of the treaty, the benefits that we believe will accrue to

Canada and, in general, to summarize the effects and results of this great co-operative international effort.

The treaty will, of course, require to be ratified. It will be submitted to the house for consideration. With respect to certain elements and clauses within the treaty, there will necessarily be differences of opinion. Indeed, representations have been made to the government by certain people in areas that will be affected as a consequence of the implementation of the treaty that an opportunity should be provided for the fullest consideration of the treaty and its implications. It is the government's intention, if the house will agree, to have the treaty submitted to the house committee on external affairs so that in that committee full and complete consideration and discussion may take place relative to its terms.

I thought it well to bring this to the attention of the house at this time, to the end that it will be realized that the affixing of signatures to the treaty does not make the treaty effective. Parliament alone can do so. To the end that this house shall be enabled to secure the fullest information on the treaty, its terms, the interpretation of those terms and in general a résumé of the entire field that is comprehended by the treaty, I believe that the proper course is to enable a committee of the house which is qualified to deal with the matter, namely the committee I have mentioned, to go fully into its terms.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the satisfaction which all members of the house must feel on the conclusion of an agreement with our neighbour the United States must also, of course, be related to the terms of that agreement, and we have not yet had an opportunity to ascertain what those terms are. The negotiations on this important matter between representatives of the two countries have been going on not merely for the three-year period mentioned by the Prime Minister but for some years previously, as my hon. friend the Minister of Justice, who played such an important part in these negotiations, was careful, I believe, to point out in a recent address he delivered at Windsor, Ontario.

I know how difficult these negotiations have been. Perhaps the house will permit me to mention only one further name in connection with them. I refer to the name of General McNaughton, who has worked so hard and so long to bring about an agreement of this kind.

As the Prime Minister has stated, the treaty is to be signed tomorrow but it is not effective until it is ratified; and ratification, under our