

interest rates on the debt from an average of 11 per cent presently being paid to an average of 7.6 per cent to be paid on the new utility.

We have already dealt with the transfer of employees from NCPC to YECL, which appears to be well in hand, with no major hurdles to overcome.

This transaction ensures that the utility is financially viable, that the electrical rates are frozen during the first two years of the process, and that Yukon consumers are protected from a major slowdown in economic activity through the flexible bond issue.

Canadian taxpayers will receive fair value for the transferred assets. The federal Government's role in decisions respecting the provision of electricity and subsidies in Yukon is terminated.

The new utility is accountable to Yukoners, which is really the key to the whole process.

The NCPC employees in Yukon are being offered jobs and receive comparable benefits and full credit for their past service and experience with NCPC. The pension rights of all NCPC transferred employees are protected in accordance with federal statutes and policy.

I believe a tribute should be paid to some members who are in the House today. I know the Leader of the Government in Yukon is here and I know he is very pleased that this will pass and become law on April 1.

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been discussions and I believe if you seek agreement, there will be consent to proceed with all stages of this Bill at the present time.

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, I concur with what the Minister said. There have been such discussions and this Party is ready to proceed.

Mr. Fulton: That is fine with me as well, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be beaten up by Tony Penikett later in the day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. McKnight, seconded by Mr. Crosbie, moves that Bill C-45, an Act to authorize the disposal of certain assets in the Yukon Territory that are held or used by the Northern Canada Power Commission and to provide for other matters in connection therewith, be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to Committee of the Whole.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into Committee thereon, Mr. Danis in the chair.

Northern Canada Power Commission Yukon Assets Disposal Authorization Act

The Chairman: Order, House in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-45, an Act to authorize the disposal of certain assets in the Yukon Territory that are held or used by the Northern Canada Power Commission and to provide for other matters in connection therewith.

On Clause 2:—*Definitions.*

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 refers to the agreement that has been signed, sealed and delivered between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada. For many weeks I have been trying to get a copy of that agreement. Now that we have a public Act of Parliament which refers within it to an agreement, I wonder if the Minister could give us the undertaking to table that agreement or at least to make it available to Hon. Members who would like a copy?

• (1710)

Mr. McKnight: I do not know under what reason or rationale the agreement has not been made available. I will give a commitment to check and if those reasons are not substantial, I will make the agreement available.

Mr. Penner: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get a clarification from the Minister regarding the size of the write-down of the debt. I was led to understand that the current debt obligations of NCPC Yukon were approximately \$142 million, in which case the write-down would amount to \$47 million. The Minister in his statement says the current debt on operations is \$128 million. That makes the write-down \$33 million. I wonder if I could have an explanation from the Minister as to this discrepancy?

Mr. McKnight: The Hon. Member is correct. The existing debt is \$141,357,999, approximately. The difference between \$128 million, which is the debt on operations, and the \$141 million, is accrued interest on the operations which will accrue at the end of March, 1987, and it is some \$13,321,000 plus. That is added in to arrive at the \$141-\$142 million mentioned by the Hon. Member.

Mr. Nickerson: I had originally intended to wait until we got to Clause 6 which deals with the financial implications, but seeing as the matter has been brought up now, I would seek clarification on whether the \$128 million debt includes the \$19.5 million which will be transferred from debt into equity and then those shares given to the Government of the Yukon, or prior to the transference of that \$19.5 million from debt into equity, was the total debt \$128 million plus \$19.5 million?

Mr. McKnight: No, Mr. Chairman, the total debt on the outstanding operations was \$128 million. The \$13 million to which I referred is the accrued interest which is also outstanding, which comes to a total of \$141 million plus. The \$19.5 million which the Government of Canada used was taken from debt and converted to equity and put in as equity.