

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. CASE: Private enterprise has done a pretty fair job of development.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): —on such developments as this Northwest Territories power commission. I think the time will come when they will not want to take any responsibility greater than the bookkeeping and the collecting of the profits. I take exception to their attitude, in that it applies solely to a section of Canada the chief industry of which is mining.

We have in the province from whence I come some large power projects which could raise the standard of living of our people. I think the time has come when we must have more public development.

Mr. JACKMAN: What is the matter with your provincial government?

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Let me tell the hon. member that in the four years the present government of Saskatchewan has been in office we have reduced our power commission rates by forty-five per cent.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. JACKMAN: How much power have you developed?

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. The bill before the committee is the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act, dealing with the subject of electric power in the Northwest Territories. I hope the hon. member will confine his remarks to the bill, and if possible to the short title.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If my hon. friends to the right will not try to provoke me into saying other things, I shall keep to the bill.

I was saying it is deplorable that we should be using public money for a certain type of public development, namely, to dig up gold in the Northwest Territories only to have it buried down in Kentucky, when we have so many other fields in which development could be made.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I do not wish to follow the remarks made by the hon. member who has just taken his seat, because the record of development by the government to which he referred in opening up northern Saskatchewan has been distinguished by its absence. I had in mind the fact that nothing particular is being done in northern Saskatchewan, and we have vast mineral potentialities there.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am coming to the point. There is a provision right in the bill which deals with my point. I refer to section 6.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the hon. member wait until that section is called. We are discussing the short title.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am trying to ask a question, and I find it difficult to do so without letting the minister know the purpose of my question. Anyway, to put the question simply, suppose in northern Saskatchewan mineral resources are available for development, will this power company in the Northwest Territories sell the power necessary for such development to such mining companies in order to assist them in developing their fields? I ask my question because in paragraph (i) provision is made for the purchase or lease of power from, or the sale of power to, any person who operates a power plant within or outside the Northwest Territories. In view of that provision, is the commission to be charged, not only with the sale of power within the territories, but also with the assistance of worthy projects in northern Saskatchewan which today are not being developed because of the lack of power?

Mr. MacKINNON: The commission has power to sell outside the territories.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Fine.

Mr. MacKINNON: I am familiar with the development in northern Saskatchewan at Goldfields, where there was a power development serving a mine which was in production for a while, but which I am informed has shut down because of the low quality of the ore deposits. But the power development for which this bill makes provision is to serve an entirely different area, one very much to the northwest and in the centre of a proven highly mineralized area. If there were mining ventures in northern Saskatchewan and elsewhere which required power, I think it would be impacticable to get it from this particular development. It might be possible however, to get the required power from other rivers, including the Lockhart river.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Is this power commission being set up mainly because of the requests of interested mining operators in the area?

Mr. MacKINNON: The setting up of this commission is a governmental endeavour to provide as cheap power as possible for the development of mineral areas served by the