

*Water Resources*

the Palliser area, are met. In principle we are against the exporting of water and in particular we are against it from our part of the country.

The report also says that Premier W. A. C. Bennett of British Columbia was almost equally adamant, saying:

Under no circumstances would we sell fresh water to the United States. Where water flows naturally, we will do nothing to interfere. But water is a basic element of life— It is Our No. 1 resource.

When one talks about diversion schemes on the North American continent, Canada seems to figure prominently in the discussions. About eight large-scale, long distance water diversion schemes have been proposed on paper, but these are engineering schemes and are privately sponsored, having been promoted at water resource conferences where such schemes are discussed. One such scheme for diverting Canada's waters to the United States was discussed at a conference held at Sherbrooke, Quebec, in 1966. A very important man was present at the conference, General McNaughton, Chairman of the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission from 1950 to 1962. General McNaughton called the scheme for diverting our waters for export a monstrous proposal, saying:

The promoters would displace Canadian sovereignty over the national waters of Canada and substitute, therefore, a diabolic thesis that all waters of North America become a shared resource of which most will be drawn off for the benefit of the United States midwest and southwest regions where existing desert areas would be made to bloom at the expense of development in Canada.

These schemes for diverting our waters for export are really no more than academic exercises on paper, because apparently not all the water authorities in the United States have been convinced of the need of an international diversion of waters. One of the more thoughtful views on United States water management problems was given in 1966 by the Committee on Water, of the National Academy of Sciences. The report begins with these words:

This report is not prompted by a national shortage of water, for there is no nationwide shortage, and no imminent danger of one—

This view is contrary to that expressed often in magazines and newspapers but must be accepted with some degree of confidence because of the body that expounds it. Some have suggested that the United States government is more concerned with increasing its efficiency in water use and in alleviating pollution levels. When asked whether he had any designs on Canada's water, former Secretary

[Mr. Penner.]

of the Interior Udall made this decisive statement:

We've suddenly begun to realize in the United States that if we do the right job in pollution control, we are going to increase our water resources enormously... we are not looking hungrily at Canada's water resources, we are looking at our own.

I think what interests those I represent and what ought to be of concern to Members of Parliament is the government's present position on this matter and what has been the position of preceding Canadian governments. If one looks through the records and summarizes statements made by responsible ministers and officials at both federal and provincial levels of government during the past several years, a number of points emerge which seem at this moment to represent Canada's policy with respect to its water resources. Six of these points are as follows:

• (9:10 p.m.)

(1) Canadian waters are not a continental resource; they are as Canadian as any other resource found within the national boundaries.

(2) There is no identifiable market as yet for Canadian water in the United States.

(3) Canada would be unwilling to negotiate any sale of water at present even if there were a market, because Canadian water supplies have not yet been adequately inventoried and Canadian water requirements into the future have not been assessed. Canada must satisfy its own requirements first.

(4) An accelerated effort is underway in Canada to this end, but it will take at least several years to complete.

I assume the studies going on in northwestern Ontario are a part of this accelerated effort to assess our own resources.

(5) Federal and provincial governments in Canada must both agree before international negotiations can begin.

(6) Canadian waters will never be sold under conditions which would jeopardize their permanent ownership and their repatriation if and when needed in Canada.

If that summary of statements is the position of the present government, it is one that can be supported. It is said that the Canada Water Act, now being debated, will provide a multi-dimensional, co-operative approach for a dynamic, new attack on our water problems appropriate to today's concerns and according to today's concept of federalism. I would appreciate receiving assurance from the minister that local and regional interests will be consulted in all policies concerned with water resources, both their protection and utilization, and also that the regional water management agencies which will be established