

licences issued for the export of power from this dominion. What is more, if the hon. gentlemen had been as industrious as they might have been they would have found that the principle asserted by Mr. Meighen as to the danger and the difficulties which would follow the granting of licences for the export of power and the building up of communities was known to every member of this administration and of this house. None of the licences that are outstanding is new; every member of this house knows that they are not new licences. The only new licence issued under that statute, so far as I know at present, is one with respect to natural gas in western Canada, and if my memory serves me, it was issued by the late government, with the consent of the attorney general of Alberta, and renewed by this government.

Now, there is no foundation in fact or otherwise for the assertion that any licence for the export of power has been granted by or asked for from this government in connection with Beauharnois—not any. And, secondly, the statements that have been made with respect to the bondholders and their position are questions that involve a long and tedious reading of the facts for which no opportunity has been afforded any member of this government in order that the matter might be dealt with this afternoon. At the appropriate time, if it is thought desirable, a statement will be made; but to spring a discussion of this kind upon this house and then expect that any member of the administration is going to follow with a detailed analysis and, failing that, to be charged with not having dealt with every factor that has been presented is something unheard of in the previous practice of this house. Moreover, it is something that will not conduce to the orderly discussion of public matters. When the opportunity arises, if it is thought desirable, a statement will be made.

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Melville): I have not received any invitation to speak on this occasion, but sometimes I speak without invitation. I am not going to enter into the differences between the government and our friends to our left, but if the stand consistently taken by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) throughout the west last year is right, that this property, this water power, belongs to the Dominion of Canada—that was the report that appeared in the press—I would point out that no expropriation proceedings would be necessary because the property would be ours without having recourse to such proceedings. And that impression was left on my mind by my good

[Mr. Bennett.]

friend the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Gordon) in the speech which he made as chairman of the Beauharnois investigation committee. He gave a very good speech on that occasion, from his standpoint, and one statement appears to have been overlooked by the house and the country. After stating that campaign funds were quite necessary, he said—

Mr. BENNETT: That was the Jacques Cartier company he was talking about there; that was what the issue was about.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We shall see when we read his statement. After making that remark in regard to campaign funds, he put in the usual “but”:

But those who contribute to a party's coffers, inspired only by the hope—and in time something more than hope—that they will, by reason thereof, be able through the influence of that party to alienate from the people of the country the resources that belong to them—those contributions, I say, and those who make them cannot be too strongly condemned.

So that if there is not a direct statement, at any rate there is a very direct implication there, on the part of my good friend the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, that this property which we were talking about belonged to the people of Canada, and that anyone who dared to alienate it for political purposes was worthy of severe condemnation. Now that was what the whole blessed report was based upon, and it is no wonder the hon. member for Acadia took up the same refrain all through the west and pleaded that everyone should come and help to save this great property of ours. The cry was, “Let us nationalize it like the hydro in Ontario.” And who was the one that stood in the way? Well, that is the situation. I am not going to quarrel with the government just now over this question because I have other fish to fry of more importance to me; that is to say, the gentlemen to our left. Let me turn to the interesting speech delivered on that occasion, the discussion of the Beauharnois report, by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) after the report was submitted by the Minister of Immigration. In the course of his remarks he was interrupted by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin), who deserves my thanks because he brought out some interesting information. I quote from Hansard:

Mr. Chaplin: Did you not do something last year to change the law?

Mr. Woodsworth: Yes.

Mr. Chaplin: Why did you do it?