

opposed to public utilities in the north. It is all very well for the government, with great fanfare, as the minister is wont to do, to announce all these schemes which offer incentives for the development of northern resources and to hold out his arms in an embracive fashion and say, "We welcome foreign investment capital." Indeed, he takes trips to Europe to try to raise investment capital to plunge into Canada's north. In effect, the government says to International Utilities, "We want investment capital, but we do not want any of your \$250 million to help develop power because we are going to do it ourselves and we will charge the consumer a great deal more."

For the first time, Mr. Speaker, from the notes of the Parliamentary Secretary we have an indication that there is to be no review board. His notes say there is no real reason to have a review board because there is to be an expanded commission of five members, including one representative from the Yukon and one from the Northwest Territories. I submit to the House that whether a utility is owned by the private sector or by the public sector, there is an increasing demand by the consuming public that the utility's activities, particularly the rates of suppliers and generators, be subjected to the decisions and reviews of a public utilities board.

That position was taken very recently in the province of Ontario by the resigning Premier. Here I refer to a report in the *Globe and Mail* of just a month or so ago, where Mr. Robarts was quoted as saying with regard to a recent Ontario rate increase that his government was looking for an appropriate forum to review rates, but he added that no decision had been made on whether the review body would have authority to reject planned increases. Unlike what is written in the notes of the Parliamentary Secretary, I urge that regardless of the outcome of this debate, regardless of what hon. members' views might be as to public versus private utilities in the north or anywhere else, there should be established a public utilities board to review rates. There is no reason why that board should not be established forthwith.

The excuse that is made in the notes of the Parliamentary Secretary is that the Yukon Territorial Council rejected an ordinance which was placed before them in 1968, which would have set up a public utilities review board. The reason they did not agree to this was not explained to the House by the Parliamentary Secretary, as is usual with the kind of evasion prepared by people who write nonsense like that read to us by the Parliamentary Secretary. The reason was that the proposed body was to be too confined. What the people of the Yukon wanted, as expressed through the Territorial Council, was a public utilities commission similar to that which operates in the province of British and the province of Alberta. It is essential that any electric utility, including Yukon Electrical, Northern Canada Power Commission and Plains Western in the Northwest Territories, be subjected to regulatory processes. The introduction of such a review board would provide protection to the residents of the Northwest Territories and of the Yukon.

I am sure no one would be too disturbed if it were proposed that the commission be allowed to pool the

Northern Canada Power Commission Act

revenues in the Yukon to the benefit of the Yukon consumer, no more than my hon. friend from the Northwest Territories would object if revenues generated by the NCPC were applied for the benefit of the Northwest Territories. That sort of principle and that sort of application will not meet objection. I do not think anyone in the Yukon would object to rate equalization in the Yukon, any more than anyone in the Northwest Territories would object to the same kind of principle. But we do object to the government continually, by its policy, lumping us together for the purpose of bureaucratic or administrative expediency.

• (4:00 p.m.)

We object to revenues generated in one territory being applied to the benefit of the other, just as the citizens of British Columbia would object to revenues arising from the consumers of that province being applied to the benefit of the province of Manitoba, Quebec, or other places. If the notes of the Parliamentary Secretary mean what they say, namely, that the revenues from the Yukon are not to be applied against losses in the Northwest Territories, it would be a simple matter to write this into the act now. Consumers ought to have that assurance.

It is interesting to note, too, that the Parliamentary Secretary's notes speak of certain northern developments. This merely shows how insidious is this kind of forked-tongue approach taken by the government. They speak of the need to keep pace with development, and of the operations of the Northern Canada Power Commission throughout the north. What developments did the Parliamentary Secretary mention? Among others, he mentioned Casino Mines, Kerr Addison Mines, Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting, and one other. These operations are all taking place in the Yukon, every last one of them. Perhaps he did not do his homework. He forgets, too, that private investment capital to the tune of \$3 billion was ready and available to carry out the development of the whole hydroelectric potential of the Yukon watershed in 1953, and that this would have generated twice the existing capacity of the St. Lawrence Seaway projects. He could not have done his homework, because if he had he would have read the remarks of the minister of that time, Mr. Lesage, and the remarks of the prime minister, Mr. St. Laurent, indicating that the private investment capital was rejected by that Liberal government.

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Nielsen: That development did not go ahead. What happened, Mr. Speaker? The government headed off that development. In 1961 the Northern Canada Power Commission retained a Montreal engineering firm, Montreal Engineering, to carry out a study of the cost of rehabilitating Dawson City.

An hon. Member: Which government was then in power?

Mr. Nielsen: They wanted to know the cost of rehabilitating the utilities, the electrical power system and the