

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

I am delighted to know that the Secretary of the Interior of the United States made that statement because it seems to me that the United States, in order to solve their water problems, rather than looking at Canadian water resources to solve their problems, must look at their own water resources in terms of pollution and the prevention of the disposal of waste into water systems. In dealing with our own resources in Canada I think it is important to lay down some basic principles which should guide us in the years ahead.

In the few minutes allowed to me I would like to outline them quickly and briefly. My remarks do not apply to international waters such as the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence river or the two rivers which cross the international boundary between our two great countries. Quite obviously it is in the interests of Canada as well as of the United States that our two countries should collaborate and co-operate to the fullest extent in the development of those water resources and in the control of pollution in them. I would point out that the Columbia river treaty is an excellent example of how our two nations working together can develop a water resource. However, I am deeply concerned about water that is solely and exclusively Canadian. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that in the years ahead this water should be used solely and exclusively for the benefit of Canada and Canadians. I wish to quote a statement made by Warren G. Magnuson, Washington State's senior senator at a conference in Wenatchee, Washington as quoted in the *Vancouver Province* of April 4, 1966. It reads:

Warren G. Magnuson, Washington State's senior senator and chairman of the senate committee on commerce, drew cheers from the many Washington and Oregon delegates when he gave his answer to the demands of the arid U.S. southwest for Columbia water:

"If we need it, you ain't going to get it."

He went on to say further:

"Until we know how much we need, it is foolish to plan about how much we are going to give away", said Magnuson. And he warned against believing the promises of Arizona and California that they would give back Columbia water if it were needed in the northwest.

I suggest that the water policy laid out by Senator Magnuson for the state of Washington with regard to the arid states in the United States such as California, Idaho and New Mexico is a policy equally applicable to Canadian waters when we consider its sale, diversion or exchange with the U.S. arid

[Mr. Basford.]

regions. I suggest that at this time Canadians should not consider the sale, exchange or diversion of our own resource.

May I make another point, Mr. Speaker. I wish to say that water once given away, sold or exchanged cannot be regained. There are those who say that we have huge water resources in Canada which are flowing wastefully into the Arctic and into the Pacific and we should be making profit of them by selling them. I suggest that once the tap is turned on it cannot be turned off, and that therefore we should not consider turning it on.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that we have no idea at this moment what is the exact nature of our water resources; and therefore to speak of the sale or exchange of resources, the extent of which we are not sure, is premature in the extreme. I submit that rather than talk of the sale or exchange of our water resources we must undertake, as I believe the minister is doing in co-operation with the provinces, an inventory of our water resources so that their development and management can best be used for the agricultural and industrial growth of our country.

● (10:10 p.m.)

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, in the seven minutes allowed me may I make the final point that there is a lot of talk about water being a continental resource. This idea that water is a continental resource is particularly noticeable in the proposals of the North American Water and Power Alliance which is a great public works scheme to take water from northern Canada and to flow it down through the United States as far as Mexico. This proposal is based on the premise that water is a continental resource.

That premise, Mr. Speaker, I reject in quite unequivocal terms. It seems to me that water is not a continental resource. Canada is a sovereign nation, and surely one of the primary characteristics of sovereignty is ownership and control over the resources of a sovereign nation. Water is a resource just as is oil, petroleum, minerals, timber, etc. Water that is solely and exclusively within the boundaries of Canada is surely a Canadian resource and is Canadian owned. It cannot in any way be regarded as a continental resource. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, may I say in closing that this water is not a continental resource but a Canadian resource, and as such should be used exclusively for the benefit of **Canada**.