

*James Bay Power Project*

So, in summation, Mr. Speaker, the three points which the hon. member has raised will be dealt with by my colleagues. I also affirm a point that I think he recognizes, that it is not for the federal government to say at this juncture whether we should or should not continue this project, just as we would not interfere with the province of Ontario carrying out a similar activity.

**Mr. Aiken:** May I ask the minister a question?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Yes, by all means.

**Mr. Aiken:** I would like to ask the minister if he is proposing the view that since the National Energy Board has to make the ultimate decision on the export of power and so forth, it is not within the jurisdiction or the requirements of his department to do some work, to give evidence before the Board if necessary, or give some indication of what the general view of the government is on the export of the power, or the development of power within the country? Is he therefore taking the view that his department has no responsibilities whatsoever in regard to this project except through the National Energy Board?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I was taking the viewpoint, and it is strictly the jurisdictional point, that it is not for the government of Canada to say yes or no to a particular project within a province. If the hon. member has another viewpoint, then I would be interested to hear it. There is, of course, the over-all concern and responsibility of the government of Canada, and in particular of the ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, to keep close track of the energy resources of this country, particularly the power resources. The vast majority of these, of course, are under the immediate control of the provinces. It will be a matter of equal concern, as substantial developments come forward, to try and time these by arrangement and consultation between the federal government and the various provinces. I think the hon. member would agree with me that it is not for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to say yea or nay to a specific project within any particular province.

• (1510)

**An hon. Member:** He can give his opinion, though.

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** The hon. member has a question?

**Mr. Penner:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister. He spoke about the growing demand for electric power in this country. Does the minister not agree that there is now a need in Canada for a program to conserve, even restrict or perhaps ration, the use of electric power? Is the federal government, either by itself or with the provinces, considering such a program of restriction?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I would not necessarily concede that at the moment there is a need for conservation or, as the hon. member said, restriction of the use of energy, particularly electrical energy, but I recognize the fact that over a period of time there is going to be a heavy

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

demand on Canadian energy resources. To put it the other way, wasteful practices with regard to energy, as for example avoiding the construction of facilities which involve energy or heat loss where this is possible is definitely the kind of thing to be pursued and is being pursued by the federal government.

Again I go back to the point that I do not think it is for myself, as minister, to sit over top of Mr. George Gathercole in Ontario Hydro, and tell him how he is going to conduct hydro business in the province of Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Does the hon. member rise for the purpose of asking a question?

**Mr. Crouse:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I listened with interest to the speech by the maestro as he fiddled away over there. In my opinion, he neatly dumped the question of assuming responsibility for establishing power development vis-à-vis the federal government and the provinces. The statement brought to mind the situation which presently exists in Nova Scotia, where consultations have been held for some considerable period of time about the development of electrical energy through the use of the Fundy tides. I wonder if the minister would indicate whether in his opinion this is a matter that must be entirely resolved by the provincial government or will responsibility for this development be shared equally between the province of Nova Scotia and the federal government?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member will recall, under our constitution ownership of the seabed below the low water mark lies with the government of Canada. Undoubtedly, while the provinces that would use the resources would be Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, any participation in a tidal power project would involve the use of federal property, in this case the seabed, so naturally the federal government is directly involved. We have no direct proprietary right in the case of the Ontario Hydro properties or James Bay.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say something nice about the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I saw him as he was leaving yesterday, and he asked me if I would miss him. I said that I would but I would try to say something nice about him and that is what I am going to do now. I am going to thank him for his recitation from *Desiderata* the other day—I don't know what he told the caucus but he did not make them too happy. I looked up my old copy of *Desiderata*, and in paying tribute to the Prime Minister I would also use this as a prelude to what I am going to say and what my approach is going to be to this debate.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit.

I guess we will have to put up with that. I want to say to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) that I accept his approach that the constitutional responsibility lies with a province for the steps to be taken to initiate the development of electric power. On the other hand, by our constitution, by practice and also by the statutes this parliament has passed pursuant to its right to do so, there are embodied in our laws certain restrictions on that provincial right. I am not referring to the direct