

Mr. DEACHMAN: What happened when they were writing the treaty?

Mr. DAVIS: And the protocol?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: They were too crowded.

Mr. STEWART: You were suggesting we were on the beam back in the 1960's. It seems to me you are saying that the more we learned about this, the worse the document became.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: The protocol makes me sad; I quite agree.

Mr. RYAN: I have a supplementary question. Would you write into your treaty a guarantee on the amount of water from the Libby each month? You said that one of the things you would have is a guarantee of the amount of water each month.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: There is no reason whatsoever why that should not be written into the treaty.

Mr. RYAN: How do you explain the fact that one of the Cominco men who testified for the west Kootenay plant stated that because they have to reduce the level of the Kootenay lake at certain times of the year for practical reasons the water from the Libby would not be wanted on a set monthly basis? He said they wanted to be free to negotiate to the best interest of all the parties. How do you explain that?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: West Kootenay are in a unique position. They have a plant at Waneta with a 360,000 kilowatt capacity. They will have a tie-up with the United States at the end of this year and they will have an interchange agreement which will be just like velvet. It is the most favourable situation of any company that I know in Canada.

Mr. RYAN: Should we not recognize that fact then and have some regard for it?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: It is one of the reasons why the west Kootenay is quite indifferent. If you were going to build a 300,000 kilowatt plant, the so named Canal plant on the Kootenay river between the lake and Brilliant, and if you could not be assured of a regular flow of water, not necessarily as much as the average but a minimum critical flow of water through your plant, you could not afford to build it. If you were in business to make money and earn yourself an income out of it, you would not build that plant on the Canal site on the Kootenay river without an assurance that some Kootenay minimum flow be maintained. The minimum average flow is about 16,000 c.f.s. average per year and the maximum average is about 28,000 c.f.s. You have to have a guarantee that they would leave let us say, 15,000 cubic feet per second. This still gives them control of the bulk of the water. You would not dare build a plant without that guarantee.

Mr. RYAN: Apparently they say they are going to do it when their load warrants it—

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: I know. They have Waneta. Waneta is the whole answer to that.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herridge and Mr. Kindt have supplementary questions.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I would like to ask Mr. Bartholomew this question: do you think the opportunity to take the time to give this matter the fullest consideration necessary to secure the facts, the political circumstances in respect of the situation in the United State Senate, the desire of the United States government not to re-negotiate, and the circumstances that exist in British Columbia, had a damaging effect or some effect on the opportunity to draft a treaty to the advantage of this country?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: I am afraid, sir, I strongly hold that view.