

application will have to be considered. Under certain circumstances I would think that the entire cost of the transmission line would be borne by the commission and covered by the power rates. In other cases it might be a matter subject to negotiation.

Mr. COCKERAM: I raised this point because I realize that one must know the ore position and everything else before those decisions are made. But when a company comes to the department, as several companies have, with fairly well estimated ore reserves and has been more or less given the run-around—when for months it has received no reply to its letters—I think there is evidence of a situation that we should guard against.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Can the minister tell us how many power plants will be established?

Mr. MacKINNON: Will the hon. member repeat the question?

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Can he tell us whether power will be sold at cost or under cost? In the explanatory notes I find this paragraph:

At the present time mining companies may develop individual power sites under the Dominion Water Power Act but the smaller mining companies are often unable to finance a hydro-electric power development. There is also the tendency to have scattered water-power plants in a mineral area rather than a larger development which would serve the whole area at a cheaper rate.

I should like to know how many plants the government proposes to put in, and how many of those scattered plants are operating now, if any. Or is it just an idea that they might be established? The paragraph goes on to say:

The bill reduces the danger of smaller power plants prejudicing the development of a large plant on the same river.

It looks to me as if the smaller plants are to be shut out—

Mr. MacKINNON: Oh, no.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): —even though they have the money with which to build. Has the minister ever considered the advisability of the government going into the power business in the Yukon territory? He and his staff administer that territory, as they do the Northwest Territories, except that Yukon has, or thinks it has, some local government which on analysis does not amount to much. Yukon has been developing her natural resources in that territory for over half a century. The natural resources of the Northwest Territories turned out to be of some value only within the past few years. Now the government

[Mr. MacKinnon.]

expects to put millions of dollars of public money in there to help these people develop their resources. Why not put some money into Yukon? There is a crying need for power development up there. Two individual plants are operating in that area, and the rates charged to the consumer are 25 cents and 20 cents per kilowatt hour respectively. You cannot operate on that. Will these plants in the Northwest Territories, apart from overhead and operating expenses, be developed to give the people cheap power? Has that been estimated scientifically? Is there any probability of the government's doing the same thing in Yukon as is proposed here?

Mr. MacKINNON: At the present time the government has not in prospect the establishment of a similar commission in the Yukon, nor does it suggest that this commission should at the present time consider extension to the Yukon. The hon. member for Yukon asked about the establishment of different plants. At the present time there is just the one unit being established. There are other sites on the same river, and it is quite possible they will be developed by this commission as the demand for power increases.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Where will the head office of the commission be?

Mr. MacKINNON: In Ottawa.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): And the government of the Northwest Territories has its head office in Ottawa?

Mr. MacKINNON: Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): The government of the Northwest Territories consists of a committee of civil servants, with the exception of one member who is not a civil servant, and so far as I know he has not bothered to attend a meeting of the commission yet; at any rate he has not attended more than one. It seems to me that the head office of the commission which is to be created should be in the Northwest Territories where the work is being done and where the power is developed, not here in Ottawa.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): I want to say first that I think this legislation is a slow and hesitant step in the right direction. What we need is public development of our power sites throughout this country. I deplore the fact that we have had, since I have come into the house, nothing more than piecemeal attitudes and policies in this regard. Sometimes I listen to my free-enterprise friends, and it seems to me they would ask that public money be spent—