

*Water Resources*

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This leads us, Mr. Speaker, to ask the question whether there really are plans in the wind to divert and export fresh water to the United States. Of course, I do not know whether there are such plans buried somewhere deep within the minister's department. I do know, however, that in the United States there are people who are talking very clearly about the need for water to be imported into the arid zones of their country. Before the turn of the century the western United States may be using Canadian water to augment its meagre supplies. This is the opinion of Dr. Donald W. Calvin, vice-president of the Federation of Western States.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Denver water engineer Lewis Smith is also quoted as telling the July meeting of the Western States Water Council that the key to obtaining Canadian water was the understanding that the Canadian economy would benefit from any diversion program. Western gubernatorial eyes were also cast on Canadian waters during the recent meeting of the Western Governors Conference in Seattle, Washington. The Los Angeles *Times* quoted Wyoming Governor Stan Hathaways' apparent majority view as follows:

—many of us feel the real answer is to import water from Canada.

California Governor Ronald Reagan added the note, "We'll trade a university for some water." A question regarding diverting and exporting water to the United States was asked of the minister in the House on November 19. He replied that no such discussions are presently going on between Canada and the United States. Nevertheless, this entire question remains a pressing matter in the minds of many Canadians. I should like to read some of the views expressed at the Interprovincial Conference held in Quebec City last August. The views expressed are interesting and are worth relating to the House. I read from a report contained in the *Globe and Mail* of August 6, 1969. It says:

Premier John Robarts of Ontario put great stress on the need for information on water needs and resources. 'I would insist on a very, very, very

serious study before we sold a drop of fresh water and I don't believe that these studies have taken place.

'I am not in favour of flushing away somebody else's pollution with fresh water, Mr. Robarts said. I believe that pollution has to be cleaned up at the source.

'But, if water were needed, the question would be where it would come from?'

The last question I believe can be answered. The water would obviously come from those areas that can supply fresh water. Manitoba Premier Ed Schreyer is reported as having said that who controls water will become a serious issue when proposals are made for the sale of water to others, especially to the United States. He added that he does not think water should be exported for industrial use; if it is to be exported it should be sold first as a developed commodity such as electricity. That is an interesting point.

One of my constituents said, perhaps in jest, "If we are going to sell water, we can do it one way only: bottle it, then sell it." Premier Schreyer advocates converting it in to electricity and then selling it. He added, however, that if there are large bodies of water in the northern parts of provinces, that cannot be used for any other purpose, it would be foolish to refuse to consider future sales of water beyond the needs of the Canadian people.

I would quote information as to how much water actually is available. There is some information about that, and I shall refer to it in a moment. I quote from a paper entitled, "The Rationale of Water Export and its Implications for Water Resources Research in the North," presented in 1968 by a professor of geography at the University of Alberta. The paper says in part:

The total water supply in Canada available for use in the future will probably not be much over 1 billion acre feet. At present we withdraw about 2 percent of this amount for use, consume 0.3 to 0.47 and temporarily damage through pollution dilution about 10 percent... By the year 2000 it is unlikely that we will withdraw more than 10 percent, or consume more than 2 percent of the available supply. With the help of our neighbours, in particular the Great Lakes region, we may pollute between 20 and 30 percent of the supply. The greater part of the supply will flow into the sea virtually unused.

One of the Premiers has suggested that any excess water flowing into the sea might be exported in some form or other to the United States. According to the *Globe and Mail* report, another Premier at the conference, Premier Thatcher of Saskatchewan, said:

We most definitely oppose the sale outside of Canada until the needs of our province, such as in