

*Water Resources Programs*

States in processed or partially processed form, and in some cases in raw form." In order to prevent Ontario resources being sent to other countries in the raw form for processing, the Ontario government has passed legislation requiring at least a primary treatment of these mineral resources. That is to be undertaken in Ontario, and will prevent our becoming merely hewers of wood and drawers of water. Canadians are beginning to resent such a role. That is the background of the motion before us.

● (4:50 p.m.)

In questions involving the exchange of resources, our people are beginning to wonder exactly what the minister intends to do with our water resources. What does the government intend to do? We have never heard the answer. The Canada Water bill provides for the setting up of water quality management agencies. It has been suggested in committee that one of those agencies could be along the borders of the Great Lakes, or could be given jurisdiction over boundary waters or inter-jurisdictional waters. If that were to happen it would be possible for one of these agencies set up in one of those water resource management areas to make an agreement under the Canada Water Act which would result in the export of our water. In other words, with the approval of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene), we may find that under the Canada Water Act certain agencies in this country are exporting water without Parliament ever having had a chance to consider the matter.

We think the bill goes far enough in delegating authority to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in this particular field. He has authority to approve water quality management programs and therefore he can, on his own authority, recommend to the Governor in Council that any particular agency should have certain powers which could result in the export of water. Motion No. 25 seeks to amend the bill in such a way as to make the export of water under the authority of this act impossible unless Parliament is first given an opportunity to debate the matter.

Both amendments being debated go a little farther than this. They say that no treaty, convention, or agreement with respect to the export of water shall be binding unless authorized by the Parliament of Canada. Here, again, we are trying to make sure that

[Mr. Aiken.]

our resources will not be exported unless Parliament has first had an opportunity to debate that matter.

We have seen the different attitudes evinced by this minister, first when he went to Washington to talk to Mr. Hickel and second, when he made his speech last week at Denver, Colorado. To my mind, these two speeches, made within two months, indicate a complete reversal of policy. In the first speech the minister proposed a continental resource policy, and in the second he reversed himself to the point of saying to the Americans, "There will be no more resources for you unless we say so and unless we have a pretty definite idea of what you will pay for them."

Assuming the minister had the authority of the government to say what he did, and that is something we never questioned, it is clear that there has been a complete reversal of government policy within two months. All the opposition has been able to do has been to sit in Parliament and hear this policy explained. That is why we cannot allow the government to exercise a temporary policy which would permit the export of water for one week or one month. After the damage has been done, the government could easily reverse its policy and say, "No more." The damage could be done by one minister of one government. There might be a temporary policy, and a few months later a change of policy under which the export of resources would be cut off.

You cannot turn on and off the flow of water. Once the people across the border have begun relying on the supply of our water, have started building industries which rely on it and have begun using it for municipal purposes, for human consumption and so on, we cannot cut it off. Once the water has been exported, once it has been diverted, you cannot turn off the tap and make the people across the border go without water. That is impossible. That is why we feel that the matter of export of water should not just be a matter of government policy. It should be a matter that ought to be considered by Parliament in every case. These amendments will authorize the export of water only if the export is approved by Parliament; otherwise, no such agreement will be binding.

If the minister could set a policy which would be indicated through speeches or through the approving of plans, say, for water resources management areas involving boundary water areas, and if he would implement these policies simply by making a recommendation to the Governor in Council for approv-