

ified with the amount of compensation paid. To date there has not been an application to take expropriation action.

Mr. Herridge: I have another question. It has been the policy of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority in many cases to try to expropriate all the land of any property holder, even above flood level, and this has happened in a good number of cases. Does your Branch insist that if the veteran requires it, the land he owns that will not be affected by the flood level will remain in his possession?

Mr. McCracken: Mr. Herridge, I know of about four cases in the last year where it seems to me that British Columbia Hydro was perhaps amenable to the request of the veteran or the property owner that he be permitted to retain title to the land above the high water mark or the new water level. To cite some cases, Donnelly was one; another that has not been settled yet is that of a veteran by the name of Eaton, not too far from Nakusp and the proposal that was still being mulled over when I left British Columbia was to relocate Eaton's house on land above the new high water level mark; Hankins at Graham's Landing—I think this type of thing was involved in that settlement as well. So I am inclined to believe that perhaps British Columbia Hydro is amenable to this general proposal, but this is only based on cases of which I have knowledge. Whether it is a firm plan or agreement by British Columbia Hydro, I do not know. Based on these cases this seems to be what they are prepared to do.

Mr. Herridge: Yes, I know.

Mr. McCracken: You will perhaps recall Mr. Law down at Deer Park. After some considerable writing by you and others, he was permitted to retain title to about two acres above the new high water mark.

Mr. Herridge: Yes. I know of a number of cases of VLA settlers and other veterans where they tried in the first instance to acquire the whole of the property and later they relented somewhat. I think I will give your Branch credit. In Mr. Law's case, your Branch took this matter up and he was finally able to retain the certain area of land above the flood level.

But I am concerned about this because I have been informed by another department of the British Columbia government that hundreds of United States citizens are now mak-

ing application to purchase Canadian land above the flood level for the building of summer homes and things of that sort. You cannot blame them from their point of view. I have seen a copy of letter written by the British Columbia Hydro in which the applicant was advised that when they had purchased all the property they would be informed of what was for sale.

I am very much opposed to this sort of thing. I believe these properties should go in the first instance to the original owners above flood level if they wish it and, in the second instance, to Canadian citizens. I think there has been a bit of a mellowing on that question and several agencies of government have had a hand in that. I want to know what has been done by your Department to protect the interests of veterans who are not purchasers under VLA.

• (12:25 p.m.)

Mr. Pawley: Actually, to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Herridge, I do not think we have done anything directly. We do not think it is our business to become involved with those that are not established under the Act and because there is no relationship between us, we really do not want to appear as if we are sticking our nose into somebody else's business. However, I think that indirectly we may have contributed to some successful settlements. I think that through the local welfare officers and some of the officials from Vancouver who have contacted or are being contacted by other older veterans in the area, we have given advice and helped in this manner indirectly.

Mr. Herridge: Yes. I remember on one occasion bringing this problem to the attention of the Minister because of the responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans and their dependents in general. Instructions were issued to one of your officials to go to Renata. You might remember the case. British Columbia Hydro had offered this veteran, who I think was about 76 then, \$14,000 as a final settlement. I advised all my veterans to stick their heels in and remain firm until they are satisfied, which they have done, and they have had some fairly satisfactory settlements. But in this case an official of your Department went to see this man personally and appraised the property, and within a month the officials of British Columbia Hydro went back to him and offered him \$4,000 more. So there has been some co-operation in that respect.