

*Columbia River Treaty*

uttered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Liberal members have said absolutely nothing. I hope they are prepared to go back and tell their constituents why they have taken the veil of silence on a matter that is of such vital importance to the people of this country.

It is advisable to look briefly at the history of the Columbia river treaty, to remember that the idea of harnessing the Columbia river has been under contemplation for two decades. It offered great possibilities for international co-operation between Canada and the United States because, on the one hand, harnessing it to generate power in Canada would be beneficial to us, and harnessing it to prevent flooding in the United States would be of great benefit to the citizens of that country. Therefore both countries had a laudable objective in working out some type of co-operative agreement for the development of the Columbia river basin.

One of the men who pioneered the work in this regard was General A. G. L. McNaughton and he was successful, let it be said to his everlasting credit, when he was the chairman of the Canadian section of the international joint commission. From time to time there have been some derogatory remarks made about the General. I say that those who make them in many cases are unworthy to untie his shoelaces, because he was the man who managed to get unanimous agreement, not only from the Canadian section of the commission but from the United States section, for the development of the Columbia river basin on the basis of sequence IX A which would have been of tremendous benefit to this country.

The finest tribute that has been paid to General McNaughton's plan was paid by a former minister of justice, Hon. Davie Fulton, who has repeatedly said that this was the plan the Conservative government would have preferred. As hon. members know, there was also a joint committee which submitted a report which was called, "The Report to the Governments of the United States and Canada Relative to Co-operative Development of Water Resources of the Columbia River Basin." That report was forwarded on September 28, 1960, and it laid out some of the basic principles upon which this international co-operation might be based.

Had the plan outlined by General McNaughton, approved by the international joint commission and laid out in principle by this joint committee, been followed, we would be ex-

tremely happy today to be standing up here in support of that treaty; but the first thing that happened was that the government of British Columbia objected to the McNaughton plan and very fundamental changes were made in it. I need not go into the details of those changes because this has all been thrashed out in the external affairs committee.

Hon. Davie Fulton, who was the minister in charge of these negotiations on behalf of Canada, admitted that the treaty as drafted by him was a second best, and on that basis the previous prime minister, Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker, signed the treaty on behalf of Canada in Washington in January, 1961, and it was also signed by the President of the United States.

That treaty was not submitted to parliament, although that government was in office for more than an additional two years after the treaty was signed. It was not submitted to parliament because the previous government found that the British Columbia government, who they thought were in agreement with the treaty, balked at the idea of having the downstream benefits delivered to Canada in the form of electric power. The basis of that agreement was that 50 per cent of the increased power delivered as the result of building the dams would be delivered to British Columbia at Oliver, B.C., but Premier Bennett of British Columbia wanted to sell the downstream benefits for a cash settlement either on a continuing basis or a lump sum. And let it be said to the credit of Hon. Davie Fulton that he balked at that. He went through the length and breadth of British Columbia speaking against the idea of selling the benefits. He said in a speech at Prince George that this would be an improvident deal—that it would make us the laughingstock of the world. He refused to submit to the pressure of the government of British Columbia.

I imagine it was with a good deal of chagrin that he found that the speech from the throne in the fall of 1962 announced the intention of the Conservative government to permit the bulk sale of the power out of Canada. This, of course, pulled the rug completely from under Mr. Fulton.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Would the hon. member permit a question? I believe he is aware that the treaty itself allows for the sale of downstream benefits.

**Mr. Douglas:** It does not allow for them on the basis on which Mr. Bennett wanted