

but the federal government has a great interest in it because the headwaters of all the prairie rivers come from that eastern rockies conservation board area.

Mr. AIKEN: I have been trying to sort this out. Perhaps the minister will tell me whether or not I have sorted it out correctly. In a lot of these matters such as the Fraser river for example, conservation, as the maintenance of a national resource, is the responsibility of the federal government and the federal government has the power to move in where the national interest is involved—but not necessarily the responsibility in a lot of these things—under the general clause for peace, order and good government of Canada. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): It is a statement which has not been demonstrated in practice. I did read those sections 91 and 92 which quote the good order clause of the British North America Act. I have tried to make it clear here that the responsibility for all the resources within a provincial boundary is on the province. They have jurisdiction over management. However, a thought which I would like to express is that perhaps the time has now come when the provinces should get together on problems of a regional nature in order to discuss the resources in that area to get the maximum advantage for all concerned. The federal government does have an interest in this. We have taken the lead in calling the provinces into conference with us preliminary to a conservation conference at which all these problems which we have before us now will be discussed. It is the objective of the conference, within the terms of the B.N.A. Act where all resources belong to the province, to suggest a series of principles under which governments at all levels, and other agencies of government such as conservation boards, can act. I should have included in that statement private business as well.

I think that indicates the attitude of the federal government. First we recognize that the ownership and management responsibility of these resources belongs to the provinces, but in this modern day with the pressures of population on our navigation and bodies of water we have taken the lead in trying to get the provinces to come together and work out these principles which will be for the general good.

In other words, there is no big stick technique which I think was inherent in your question. It is rather a question of leadership so that responsible sovereign bodies can make decisions in respect of their own and other problems nearby.

Mr. AIKEN: In several cases you have mentioned where the federal government has moved in to assist where they thought the national interest was involved in cases where they would never accept responsibility. You mentioned some instances in the prairies and in the maritimes where the federal government did move in to help in the situation.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Yes. I think that is compatible with what I have said. The federal government has a great interest in this and does feel the necessity in the national interest to assist. We have done it in Ontario as well.

The Conservation Act which is under review in these votes is one where we have helped out in four or five cases in Ontario to conserve water. There is no responsibility on the federal government, but in the national interest we do offer assistance.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I would like to clarify something. Any legislation which may be brought in in the future would have to be in a manner in which the federal government merely cooperates with the provinces. It seems to me the provinces have the right over their natural resources.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): What you say is essentially true with the exception of waters which comprise a boundary. In that case we have an international responsibility.