

Canada has taken a very firm and, I think, a very reasonable stand on this question. I am not sure of what will happen to this bill in the United States Senate during their present session; but, in any event, there has been no change in the policy adopted by the Canadian Government, which has been, and is, that we are against this proposal to divert water from Lake Michigan

Columbia River

Then, with regard to the Columbia River, I do not need to go over the information which General McNaughton has given this Committee down through the years about the Columbia River and its potential development. It has a huge power potential, which has been developed on the United States side, but to a very limited extent on the Canadian side.

A little over a year ago we referred to the International Joint Commission the question of working out principles under which downstream benefits would be paid to Canada for the storage of water which would be released in times of low water and thereby would increase the amount of power that could be produced in the plants on the American portion of the river.

General McNaughton and the other members of the International Joint Commission, including the American members, did an outstanding job on this reference, and in December they brought in a report which recommended to the two Governments the various principles on which a co-operative plan could be based.

The water in Canada belongs to the provincial government. The only control the Dominion has over it is a licensing control under the terms of the International Rivers Act, which was passed a few years ago. So this has meant that the Federal Government must work not only with the United States Government but also with the provincial government of British Columbia. A technical committee of the two Canadian governments has been at work for many months. There has also been a policy committee at ministerial level, which includes two Ministers from the Canadian Government and two from that of British Columbia. Mr. Alvin Hamilton and myself have been the federal representatives, and Mr. Williston and Mr. Bonner have been the British Columbia representatives . . .

The negotiations held here two or three weeks ago were more or less of a preliminary nature, and the next meeting is to take place tomorrow in Washington. In the meantime, last Saturday the Dominion-Provincial Policy Committee met in Victoria. Of course, I am not in a position to say what progress will be made at the meetings in Washington tomorrow, but I think there is a reasonable prospect that the terms of a treaty or agreement can be concluded fairly quickly, and also that the development of this river in Canada can be undertaken without delay

Summit Preparations

Then there are three or four other subjects I should like to deal with. One has to do with the preparations for the East-West summit conference. These are going forward on the Western side through the North Atlantic Treaty Organ-