

will this body be exclusively the agency for the production of power within the Northwest Territories?

Mr. MacKINNON: We expect that the mining companies will be very glad to buy power from the commission, because we hope they will be able to get it more cheaply from the commission than they can produce it themselves. Special circumstances might arise that would necessitate further consideration of a particular project, but in general the commission expects to serve all users with power.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wonder if the committee would deal with the clauses as we reach them. What we are considering now is simply the short title.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): On the introduction of the bill the minister read the short title and went generally into the purposes of the bill. He gave an explanatory statement. Surely members can deal with it in the same manner. I suggest that the committee would make better progress that way.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not wish to press the point. After all, I am in the hands of the committee, but my own opinion is that we would make better progress if we dealt with the clauses as we reached them.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: "This act may be cited as the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act," and with the greatest respect to you, sir, I submit that the scheme followed in the past has always been to permit general discussion on the short title in order to determine the question. We are trying to co-operate so as to get this through.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. member will not spend time arguing that point, because if the committee wishes to carry on as it is doing, I raise no further objection.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Thank you, sir. I come back to this matter because the minister takes so many words to answer a simple question. Is it the intention of the Northwest Territories power commission to be the exclusive producer and distributor of power within the Northwest Territories, subject to the existence of one company which at the present time generates power there?

Mr. MacKINNON: I might give the hon. member for Lake Centre an answer by stating that at the present time mining companies may develop individual power sites under the Dominion Water Power Act—

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Yes.

Mr. MacKINNON: —but the smaller mining companies are often unable to finance a

hydroelectric power development. There is also the tendency to have scattered water power plants in a mineral area rather than a larger development which would serve the whole area at a cheaper rate. The bill reduces the danger of smaller power plants prejudicing the development of a large plant on the same river.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Sometimes in a multiplicity of words there is wisdom, Mr. Chairman, but not always clarity. Surely it would be a simple matter to say whether or not the government intends, regardless of price or other considerations, to be, under this commission, the exclusive producer of power in the Northwest Territories. If it does, let us know it. If it does not, let the minister say that it has not that intention. I do not like the use of many words to answer a simple question. I am not at the moment critical of whatever the answer will be, but I should like to know what it is.

Mr. MacKINNON: I think it is essential at times to add something to the answer rather than to say merely yes or no. But in this particular case, answering briefly, I would say that it is not the intention of the government or the commission to do what is suggested by the hon. member.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: To have a monopoly?

Mr. MacKINNON: Yes.

Mr. COCKERAM: I should like the minister to clarify the question of these power lines. I have in mind a mine a hundred or so miles farther north which has had considerable correspondence with the department and which for months was unable to get an answer to their letter asking whether power would be brought up to the north from the Snare river. If it is the intention that it should be brought up, who is to pay for the power line? Is it to be paid for on the basis of fifty per cent by the mining company and fifty per cent by the power company? I think this is a necessary investment in the Northwest Territories, but I believe there must be greater co-operation than has been shown up to the present with regard to these outlying places.

Mr. MacKINNON: I have already stated that it was the intention of the commission to consider favourably any application for power in the district mentioned by the hon. member. I should also like to add that these are matters of negotiation and arrangement between the prospective user of power and the commission. If there is a reasonable necessity for the extension of the transmission line to the area, the circumstances surrounding the