

accept responsibility for getting this mammoth project off the ground. It recognizes there should be a continuing, tangible link between the elected body and those who would do the actual development work.

I mention this because it is of consequence. For many years, attempts have been made to develop the tides of the Bay of Fundy and Minas Basin. In addition, attempts were made by the United States corps of army engineers to develop Passamaquoddy basin lying between the United States and the province of New Brunswick, but all of these attempts failed, even though a tremendous amount of engineering work and effort were put into them.

All of us recognize the interest shown over a long period of time by the late George C. Nowlan in the harnessing of the tides of the Minas Basin and the full development of the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy tidal program review board, following its most recent assessment, concluded that it would not be economical to go ahead with such a project now, and I have dealt with that aspect. Without impugning the integrity of this board at all, its engineering and economic models were based on information that was outdated. Its methods of construction were outdated, and its costing was outdated. The fact is that interest rates today are lower than they were. The fact is that new and more efficient methods have been developed. Indeed, it is now commonly conceded that a sustained source of power could be developed on an economic basis.

I say it is inevitable that the Bay of Fundy tides will be harnessed. It is inevitable if for no other reason than that it is the cheapest source of power we can find. It is a renewable resource which provides power. Most important of all, it is pollution free. I suggest to the minister that we must approach the development of these tides openly and with frankness. We must not do anything that might encourage or tend to promote a credibility gap. We must not in any way deceive ourselves or those who would be interested in investing in the project. In other words, we must not do things behind one another's backs but must be open at all times. There must be full involvement.

● (3:20 p.m.)

The corporation suggested by the premier of Nova Scotia is a worth while step, but it runs the risk of being the root cause of our once again fumbling the ball. And if we do fumble the ball, it will be many, many years before we will be able to pick it up again, because in the interval we will become deeply involved in programs of uranium enrichment and automatic self-breeders. I do not want atomic waste buried in my backyard, not when there is available pure, clean water which prevents no danger or pollution hazard. If we fumble the ball again, then these are the problems with which we will be confronted with respect to developing the Bay of Fundy tides. We must make sure that this concept is not controlled by some crown corporation narrowly controlled by the premier of one province. I think several hon. members have asked in the House whether the premier of Nova Scotia had approached the federal

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authorities with respect to this type of review which the all-party committee, headed by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North, requested. Frankly, I wonder why that premier has not approached the federal authorities. I am sure that private talks have taken place. I say that because the minister has said publicly he would review the matter if he were asked to do so. I am concerned, because that approach has not been followed up by the premier of Nova Scotia. He has embarked on a course that suggests he wants to do it alone. That is fine, but the fact of the matter is that he cannot do it alone. This undertaking will involve more than \$1 billion. If one includes the full potential of the project, namely, economic spin-offs in terms of tourism, and so on, the project will involve, perhaps, funds in excess of \$2 billion or \$3 billion.

Nova Scotia, Mr. Chairman, cannot afford the luxury of attempting to undertake this project alone. I am afraid of the difficulties that may ensue if the province, in attempting to go ahead with the project, finds it cannot complete this undertaking and if, in that attempt to put all the marbles in its own pocket, it finds that its pockets have holes in them. All the marbles may then be lost. In other words, I think the province would only undertake this project if it "had a hole in its head."

Statements have been made that this course will not be followed. These, actually, have not been statements so much as comments made outside this Chamber. Officials who have not been elected have made such statements. We have heard, for instance, that agreements have been reached between the federal authorities and the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Perhaps there are indications of what may happen, but I submit that these indications are not sufficient to offset the concern that I, along with others, feel. I do not think the provincial authorities ought to attempt to undertake this project by themselves. That is the message I wish to leave with the committee this afternoon in discussing this particular clause of the bill, Mr. Chairman.

I say, first of all, that it is inevitable that the Bay of Fundy tidal power project will be developed some day. That being so, why do we not undertake it now? Let us do it now; let us do it in an orderly way and let us do it with the full participation of the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the federal authorities. While doing that, let us not forget that Prince Edward Island is not very far away. Actually, I do not think that the province is more than 28 miles from the headwaters of the Bay of Fundy. Let us not forget that province. Let us, at the same time, consider the advantages that this particular clause of the bill, Mr. Chairman.

We heard a great deal in this House, especially last Friday afternoon during private member's hour, about the benefits of this project. Speakers from the Maritime provinces indicated that we do not like to go on accepting subsidies.

The Chairman: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. I do so to advise him and the committee that his time has expired.