

Beauharnois Power—Mr. Church

or less than one-seventh, has been developed. In my opinion this canal is just a blind, a smoke screen behind which they hope to get the bill passed in order to get hold of these water powers during war time, and of course they will be retained in perpetuity, and without adequate safeguards, when peace comes.

Some of this power may be exported. We know there is a tax on the export of power, but once it is exported it is gone forever. Ten years ago the bill I introduced in the house, to give this house full power over permits, was voted down by 85-72; the minister said at that time that under the law, as my bill had failed, they had no power to refuse the first application which was made by this company. At that time they obtained by order in council 422, 53,000 cubic feet per second, and now they are after another 30,000 feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would direct the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that the only matter before the house at the present moment is the amendment adopted by the senate. The hon. gentleman is now referring to the merits of the bill, which have been discussed in this house already. I would ask the hon. member to confine himself to the amendment now under consideration.

Mr. CHURCH: That is quite right, Mr. Speaker, but my suggestion is that we should appoint a committee from this house to meet with a committee from the Senate and go into this question of a national war policy with regard to power. I believe the government should lay down such a policy to protect these water powers in the interests of the people in peace and war alike. During almost ten months of the year we in this country require coal, and now we are parting with our water powers. As the late Theodore Roosevelt said, the people of the continent are faced with a power monopoly. Who own all these power companies to which parliament is handing out privileges? They are owned mostly by Americans in New York. Just look at the returns in the financial annuals and you will see the truth of what I say as to the directors and financial set-up. Now we are handing over an additional 30,000 cubic feet per second, and nearly the full flow of the river, without proper safeguards in the interests of Canada. I can tell you this: If there were a proper power controller for Canada, as in the last war, with power to operate in the provinces where these companies are situated, we would have a proper regulation of power and a redistribution in Quebec. We know how this government at the time of the last war regulated the production of power

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in Ontario. Under the bill now before us there is very little provision for the regulation of power companies or the protection of Canada by proper safeguards.

For these reasons I urge that instead of adopting the senate amendments we should meet their honours to see about a federal hydro national policy and the appointment of a proper federal power controller who would have jurisdiction over the output during the war years of these privately-owned monopolies who deal with the people's heritage. We remember that at the time of the last war Sir Henry Drayton regulated the activities of power companies. There ought to be some measure of regulation when in reality we are giving to these companies in perpetuity our magnificent heritage. In Quebec a power controller could adjust war matters there.

In conclusion may I point out I believe the time has come when the government will have to take national jurisdiction over the power and develop it at cost for the people. Under the British North America Act and the War Measures Act, we have jurisdiction in connection with the development and generation of power. That power should be distributed at cost to the industrial provinces which are now suffering.

Motion agreed to; amendment read the second time and concurred in.

SUPPLY

AEROPLANE ENGINES—DECISION OF MR. FORD WITH RESPECT TO MANUFACTURE FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT—STATEMENT OF MR. COLDWELL

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, before you leave the chair I should like to draw further attention to a matter raised this afternoon by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson). It was my intention to bring this matter up on the motion to go into supply, because I believe it deserves much more consideration than was given to it merely by a question and an answer across the floor of the house before the orders of the day were called.

The newspaper reports regarding the refusal of the head of a corporation, which has a subsidiary in Canada—

Mr. MARTIN: That is not true.

Mr. COLDWELL: —controlled in all its policies from the other side of the boundary line, and refusing to assist the British com-