

undertaking respecting a basic Canadian resource is contemplated, whether now or at any time in the future.

It is not just international diversion of water that can be hazardous to a country. Even internal water diversions can disturb the ecological balance of a whole region. New types of wildlife and of plant life tend to develop, and other types die because of the change in the ecological balance. We have been tinkering with these things for years but because our population has not been large we have, until now, been unable to see the real extent of the damage. As we continue to tinker the problems become larger and larger, and in many places they are reaching crisis proportions. For instance, I cite the cross Florida canal, and the substantial filling in of the bay at San Francisco as examples of ecological tinkering on a grand scale.

We must remember that the export of any kind of raw product, including water, leads to dependency. When another nation is depending upon a vital resource it is very difficult to turn off the tap once it has been turned on. Large cities, large populations and large industries become dependent on the resource. But, we must also remember that when we export our raw resources we are also exporting jobs, and Canada is already deficient in secondary industries. It seems to me that we should be encouraging industries to locate in Canada by using our resources here.

Another matter to consider is the storage of water within our own borders. Here, I speak in particular of the Skagit River valley. I am sure most hon. members are aware that this is a very important problem in British Columbia, and it has national interest as evidenced by a fine article in a recent issue of *Canadian Magazine*. It examined the whole matter of using areas within our borders to store water, and the plan was found wanting.

I know that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Orange) is well aware of this problem. I know he has been concerned about it. I know he is well aware that recreational resources close to large urban centres are becoming increasingly scarce. I know he will make certain that any application from British Columbia to allow this kind of water storage, preparation for which will denude 6,000 acres of Canadian land, will not be automatically rubber-stamped by Ottawa. I certainly hope the matter will be resolved in the near future.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing sinister in members of the opposition propos-

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ing an amendment of this kind to regulate water exports. It seems to me good common sense that we protect ourselves in this way. I hope the government will accept it.

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, these two amendments move us to the fundamental question of our water resources. Time and again within the last few months we have had debates on the question of resource exchange between Canada and the United States, particularly on the question of how far Canada can go in entering into agreements for the export of our water resources. We have had debates on what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Green) meant when he spoke in Washington, and again when he spoke in Denver, Colorado. We have had statements from the government as to its intentions with regard to water resources and pollution, but unfortunately throughout all of this we have not been given a definite policy statement binding the government on these matters.

After the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources went to Washington a couple of months ago, he returned with the great idea that there should be an exchange of natural resources between Canada and the United States. This has been called a continental resource policy. The minister was understood by the general public to be saying that we should declare the resources of Canada and the United States to be one, and if one country had a surplus it should be made freely available to the other.

The question of the export of water touched a very tender nerve in Canadian hearts. Immediately, the public began asking what the minister meant when he wanted to exchange energy resources. Did he intend to export water as part of this resources policy? Immediately the minister said, "Oh, no, not water," because he knew how very sensitive Canadians were on this question. "No," he said, "this resource exchange has nothing to do with water."

Then, he was asked what about oil and gas, had it anything to do with oil and gas? He said, "Well, not really. As far as gas is concerned we want to export as much as we can. We have gas available, and oil likewise. The market is there and we would like to export, but we do not want to get into a bind or a disagreement over oil and gas." Then, he was asked what about mineral resources and he replied, "Well, a great many of our mineral resources are presently going to the United