

Fundy Tidal Power

Mr. Muir: I appreciate applause, even from the other side. I appreciate it from anyone. Let us now hope they will vote for this resolution so that we can make some progress on the east coast, as is often done in Quebec and Ontario.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, like the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) and the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir), I am pleased that at last we seem to be making progress with regard to harnessing the power in the tides of the Bay of Fundy. In view of the announcement by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) it seems to me that the government would welcome this motion being passed by the House this afternoon.

I could again give my personal credentials for being interested in this matter. After all, my ancestry on my mother's side comes from New Brunswick and my ancestry on my father's side comes from Nova Scotia. That puts me on both sides of the Bay of Fundy.

Entirely apart from that I am a Canadian and, across this country, all of us are interested in developing new sources of power. This is one we have talked about for a long time and it should now be advanced. I am happy to indicate my party's support for this motion and—

An hon. Member: Where are they?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Once again, Madam Speaker, I am able to speak for my party, the next party, and also for the independent member for Moncton (Mr. Jones).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jack Cullen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, it is always a pleasure to debate with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) in private members' hour. He and I have not had that opportunity too often in this parliament, but I know he always enjoys being a majority, even if it is a majority of one, which he is today.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Cullen: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Since the parliamentary secretary has associated himself with me, will he follow my example and make it short?

Mr. Cullen: When you are five foot seven, Madam Speaker, everything you do is short.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cullen: I commend the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) and the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir). I am not one of the new experts from 1972 or 1974. I am an old guy from 1968 who does not know much about it. I say to the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys not to underestimate the 1972 and 1974 classes as did some of his col-

[Mr. Muir.]

leagues. They are now sitting on the outside while these fellows are sitting in here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Muir: Let's hope they pronounce themselves on occasion and not just stay sitting.

Mr. Cullen: The unhappy part is that the older members use all the time, and this is very frustrating to the newer members.

From my earlier participation in this debate, the mover of this motion will know that, even though I am from Ontario, and those nasty words—central Canada—I have supported this proposition ever since coming to this House, and more particularly when I had the honour to serve as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. At that time I visited the area to look at the tides. The hon. member is correct; they do rise 53 feet. I did not measure them, but I am prepared to take the hon. member's word.

The mover of the motion and the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys will, I am sure, concede that the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) has given fantastic encouragement to something that was only a dream or an idea. Rather than scoffing or laughing at it, this minister has taken up this matter.

As to whether the Canada Development Corporation is the proper agency to co-ordinate it, I feel that this is something a little down the road, a little in the future. I feel it should be done on a government to government basis. Frankly, I have my doubts about whether the CDC should be moving into this particular field. The CDC was told it would pretty well have complete freedom insofar as operating in the business world is concerned. We may be able to make suggestions, but we should not dictate what it should be doing in any particular field.

The merits of this operation are well known. There has been a series of reports. In October, 1969, there was a report on the feasibility of tidal power development in the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board concluded that economic development of tidal power in the Bay of Fundy was not feasible under prevailing circumstances. I am sorry I have to read that conclusion but I wanted to get that portion of the report correct. They did say they felt that additional detailed study should be authorized. Then they set out a series of conditions under which future studies might be carried out. The conclusion was that the project was not economically feasible, but they did not rule out the possibility of the project being feasible from an engineering point of view.

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Subsequently a new report was prepared by the Bay of Fundy Tidal Power Review Board. This is described as a preliminary reassessment of the feasibility of tidal power development in the Bay of Fundy. That report came out in September, 1974. Here again, the subject is being considered by the three governments primarily concerned—the federal government, the government of New Bruns-