

bility of the kind spouted by Joe Davidson of the Union of Postal Workers, who stated on national television that the public could go to hell. For the head of a union which represents employees who serve the public, and are paid by the public, to make statements of this kind, that border on sedition and public mischief, only goes to confirm the degree of irresponsibility which has become a part of the labour movement in this nation today. It must be stopped, but cannot be as long as we have to accept budgets of this kind from the government of the day. It has not always been that way and it was not that way in 1963 when this government assumed office. It might be of value to reflect on the kind of economy that was inherited from the Diefenbaker administration at that time. This is a legacy well worth recalling.

This is what was being said about the state of the economy in 1962 with a Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa. An article in the *Canadian Business Magazine* for September, 1962 reads:

—a 12 nation comparison of retail price increases over the 12 months shows that Canada has been the most successful in keeping down the cost of living. The Canadian increase was just under 1 per cent.

In *Business Week* for December of the same year we find this statement:

Canada chalked up the highest growth rate of any Atlantic Community country—

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce reported in December 1962:

One of the main sources of strength as this year progressed has been the substantial rise in the volume of exports.

Newsweek reported at about the same time:

Worldwide industrial expansion is 7 per cent over last year with the U.S. and Canada registering the top gain of 10 per cent.

It is difficult to believe that there ever were those days in Canada, because in the 12 years since this government took office it has obliterated any concept in the minds of Canadians that our economy can be managed in an effective, efficient and progressive way as was the case in the days when the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) was prime minister of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: I put these facts on the record so that Canadians, both young and old, will not be deceived by this government into thinking that chaos and catastrophe were always the hallmarks of federal government administrations. The right hon. member for Prince Albert and his administration produced policies that were much superior to anything this administration has come close to in its 12 years in office. Indeed, it is a sorry spectacle that we witness today.

It was interesting to note that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Foster) in a recent speech at Murray Bay, Quebec, told his audience of the value of interconnecting grids so that power might be moved from one part of this nation to the other in a far more economic manner than at this moment in time. He said:

Greater coordination of electric utility expansion plans on a regional basis must be given attention. The economic utilization of large-scale hydro projects, the possible development of tidal energy, the incorpora-

tion of large nuclear units—they all lead to increasing requirements for exploiting the benefits of regional interconnections.

It is good to hear those words being spoken at this time, but the facts are that the right hon. member for Prince Albert called for the establishment of a national power grid in 1961, and the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), as the Minister of Northern Affairs at that time, embarked upon negotiations that would have made it a reality had there not been a change of government in 1963. This program was abandoned when the new Liberal government took office and only now, in the midst of crisis, do we find the common goal of national development being pursued. We could say better late than never, but it is damning evidence of a lack of national application by a government that is so embarrassed by continuing crises that it can find little or no time to pursue the kind of national programs that made this nation what it is today. Indeed, it is probably the only reason we have been able to survive the type of abortive schemes which are the ingredients of this budget.

● (1520)

If the Pearson administration had carried through on the groundwork of the Diefenbaker administration, we would have a national power grid in this nation today. Once we have such a grid system, the nation will be able to fully utilize the potential power pool of Atlantic Canada. There is the tremendous power potential of Churchill Falls, the coal fields of Cape Breton, Pictou and Cumberland counties in Nova Scotia and the Minto area of New Brunswick. We have the nuclear power potential that will be available from New Brunswick and, most of all, the tidal power potential of Minas Basin, Cumberland Basin and Shepody Bay.

I have not mentioned the possibility of offshore oil finds off the coast of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland or Labrador, but I am saying that I believe a national power grid in the rest of Canada could tap into a tremendous potential energy resources on the east coast of this nation for the benefit of the whole of this nation. It is absolutely imperative, now the government has finally decided to move in respect of the establishment of a national power grid, that it move as quickly as possible to see that arrangements are made and transmission lines are put in place so that the power can flow in this nation either from east to west or from west to east wherever power is needed at a specific time.

There may have been some reason to believe that tidal power could not compete with the economics of oil at \$2 or \$3 per barrel, but there is absolutely no justification for further studies to determine the economic feasibility of this energy resource with oil at \$12 a barrel or more. Indeed, rather than spending a further \$3 million for studies, we should be spending the money to determine the best engineering method and calling tenders to have the construction begin. If France could produce a pilot project that has proven economic, indeed so economic that it now plans to construct a project 15 times the size of LaRance, and with tides that are not nearly as high as those in the Bay of Fundy, surely it is common and practical sense to get on with the job.