

St. Lawrence Seaway

effective start could be made. On the contrary, it seems to me that this expression from the House of Representatives in the United States, that there is a substantial majority that approves the carrying out of the project, will be a help in the removal of any further obstacles that the opponents of the project might try to put in the way.

Mr. Knowles: Does the Prime Minister feel that on a joint basis it might get started even sooner than if Canada were to go it alone?

Mr. St. Laurent: No, I did not say that. What I meant to say was that there were still some things that have to be done in the United States. As the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, it is necessary, in order to have this kind of seaway, that there be a dam extending from one shore to the other and that that dam be built by the authorities that have been authorized by the respective governments. With respect to one of these authorities, that of the United States, though it has obtained a licence from the federal power commission, it is a licence that has not yet got beyond the period when it can be questioned in the courts. I understand that a writ of certiorari respecting it can still be applied for up to May 19, and that if it is applied for it may take some little time to dispose of. It is hoped it could be disposed of before the supreme court adjourns for the summer vacation.

Now, as soon as the United States authority is in the position to go ahead—and, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) knows, it has been its desire to go ahead since 1946—we know here that the Ontario power commission is disposed to go ahead. And we know that as soon as the dam can be started, if no arrangement is arrived at that would not delay the construction of the seaway, this government would be in a position to go ahead itself on the Canadian side and provide the canal required. That is the situation.

I think that this vote, following the majority vote that had already been registered in the Senate on another bill that is somewhat different but is generally along the same lines, does indicate that there now is a majority of the representatives of the American people who want this thing dealt with at this time, and who want it dealt with as a joint undertaking.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take a moment to join with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) in expressing gratification in respect of the bill passed under which the United States has indicated that it will join with

Canada in the building of the St. Lawrence waterway.

When I say that, I realize there may be some parts of Canada which will not feel that they would receive the same benefits from the building of this great project as will be received by Ontario. Even so, I am convinced that the sooner this project can be built, the sooner will Canada realize the fulfilment of a very great undertaking. I think it is in the interests of our great country that this project be proceeded with and completed as soon as possible.

But let me say while I am on my feet that I hope the program will be completed with the greatest possible expedition, and furthermore that in the process of building the seaway we buy just as much of the equipment as we possibly can from Great Britain, because I understand that they are prepared to fabricate the great head gates, and all that sort of thing. I believe it would be to our advantage to see that Great Britain is given every possible order that we can give them for supplies.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: Tomorrow we will go on with fisheries, rather than northern affairs, to be followed by agriculture.

It being five minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[The following items were passed in committee of supply]:

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

National parks branch—

National parks and historic sites services—

304. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$4,397,820.

305. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment, \$3,640,735.

306. Grant to the Jack Miner migratory bird foundation, \$5,000.

307. Grant in aid of the development of the international peace garden in Manitoba, \$10,000.

308. National battlefield commission—to provide for special works at national battlefields park, Quebec, \$6,000.

Canadian wildlife service—

309. Wildlife resources conservation and development, including administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, \$437,271.

310. National museum of Canada, \$305,681.