

a satisfactory arrangement is arrived at it will avoid the carrying out of the threat made by General McNaughton to the Americans, in case no solution can be arrived at between the two parties, namely, to divert the waters of the Columbia River to the Fraser. As Chairman of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, I say that were that proposal to be carried out it would wipe out the entire salmon population of the Fraser River, because the diversion of the waters of the Columbia would involve the building of ten dams on the Fraser to retain water there during the various dry periods of the year. There is no doubt that, as the negotiations proceed, the Government of British Columbia will be drawn into the picture. Personally I would rather that the British Columbia Power Commission had the handling and development of power from the Columbia than that it be undertaken by a private concern. I say so because, as I look over the rates for electric power in Canada, I cannot but conclude that we in British Columbia are paying a heavy price for our electricity. The cost of electric light and power in, for instance, the city of Ottawa, which is supplied by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, is only one-third of what we have to pay in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

I now come to what I have particularly in mind apart from the development of the Columbia River and the preservation of our salmon. I am pleased that this commission has been set up; and one circumstance I would like it to look into is the fact, having reference to the natural gas line from Alberta through British Columbia to the boundary, that the United States firm which obtains natural gas from this source is getting it far cheaper than it is being supplied to us in British Columbia. I dug into this matter a little and was astonished to find that someone, presumably some official, has been very derelict in his duty, because the regulations which were passed to control matters of this kind have been ignored. By reference to the *Canada Gazette* of July 13, 1955, it will be seen that, "the price charged by a licensee for power or gas exported by him shall not be lower than the price at which power or gas respectively is supplied by him or his supplier in similar quantities and under similar conditions of sale for consumption in Canada". Yet we find that a United States company can buy gas from the West Coast Transmission at something like 24 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, while the British Columbia Electric Company in the province of British Columbia is paying 31.72 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. That arrangement may have even greater advantages for the United States

company, as I understand it has to meet competition in the line of fuel, not only with gas but with oil plus electric power. But with us in the Fraser Valley there is no competition in either of the two fields. British Columbia Electric controls all the electricity; now it controls the natural gas, so there is no competition there. The point I want the commission to look into is why this American company has been allowed to obtain gas from Alberta passing through our province at a far less rate than it is being supplied to us in British Columbia. I repeat that to my mind this is a violation of the regulation, that someone has not done his duty, and that the matter should be fully investigated. I trust that the Government will put what I have said before the recently appointed Energy Commission.

Without going at length into this matter, I would remark that in my opinion the Government did right to stop the export of natural gas until the whole subject has been reviewed. Reliable authorities estimate that inside of three years the demand in Canada for natural gas will double. If that be so, every assurance should be given that supplies will be available to all our people. The fact must not be overlooked that, once supplies are made available to customers outside the country, a serious international issue could arise if later on it should become necessary to deprive them of this service in order to meet the needs of our own people.

My last reference will be to the subject of narcotics, which is still very much to the fore in our province, particularly in Vancouver. It will be remembered that the report of a committee of the Senate was presented in 1956, and in the following year we passed a bill dealing with this matter. I say frankly, without fear of contradiction and not because I had the honour of being chairman of the committee, that that committee did one of the finest jobs which the Senate has ever done. Although its work was completed within the year, its studies were exhaustive, and I doubt whether one iota of further evidence could have been procured. The problem is still serious in British Columbia, but while some people claim there has been an increase in drug addiction, the departmental officials feel otherwise. The fact is that the greater number of convictions has been due solely to the fact that since our report was published the police and other authorities have been more active in picking up narcotic users.

While we advocated and were successful in having heavier penalties written into the bill, we also recommended in our report certain treatment for the addicts. Every member of our committee fully realized that it was no