

International Rivers

Mr. Thomas: Precisely the argument of the hon. member for Kootenay East. I wonder what could be more damaging to the negotiations now under way, and what could be more damaging as far as the attitude of the United States is concerned, than to pass a bill that is going to stop the province of British Columbia from storing water within British Columbia so that the United States can make an orderly use of that water and get a better development out of that water than they are able to do now.

Mr. Blackmore: It is like a dog-in-the-manger attitude.

Mr. Thomas: It is amazing.

Mr. Low: Co-operative effort!

Mr. Thomas: It is amazing how utterly ridiculous some of these statements can be. On the one hand they say we have to protect our resources; we cannot give United States anything if it is going to endanger ourselves. I quite agree with these things. The fact remains that we are not exporting power; we are not exporting water; we are not losing anything.

Mr. Hahn: We are exporting good will.

Mr. Thomas: As the hon. member for New Westminster just said, we are exporting good will, and the Kaiser company is quite willing to pay handsomely for that export.

The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage) said: "What is money?" What is a million dollars? I can understand that attitude when they are bleeding the people of this country as long as they have been without any regard whatsoever for saving money or cutting down expenses. What do we care? All we have to do is slap on another tax and the people will pay it. That is the attitude of the Liberal government, and always has been. As long as we can bleed the money out of the people, we do not have to care about money, and why should the province of British Columbia worry about money? I can tell you why they should. They have a deep-down heartfelt feeling for the welfare of the people within that province.

Two or three times during this debate there has been talk of a 50-50 basis. It makes me think of a sandwich that I once bought in a restaurant where it said on the menu under "Sandwiches" that the sandwich was half beef and half chicken. Upon opening up the sandwich I could find only one small sliver of chicken, the rest was all beef. I said, "I thought this was supposed to be half beef and half chicken". They said, "It is half a beef and half a chicken". That is exactly like the 50-50 proposition that this

[Mr. Byrne.]

government has been getting out of all international negotiations. In anything they have carried out so far that is about all they got out of it. The St. Lawrence seaway is supposed to be for the welfare of the people of Canada but this government is outpaying the United States 6 to 1 in order to get a 50-50 proposition.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): That is for the benefit of the people of Ontario mainly, don't forget that.

Mr. Thomas: As a matter of fact I cannot think of one instance in their dealings with any other country that this government has ever driven a good bargain. For some reason or another they always come out second best.

An hon. Member: Prove it.

Mr. Thomas: The hon. member says, "Prove it". I cannot think of a better example than the British wheat agreement where about \$450 million was lost to the farmers of this country. Just to stick on this same subject of rivers, in negotiating the boundary with the United States between Maine and New Brunswick, when it was decided that the boundary would be the Saint John river they took the east branch and let the state of Maine get all in between the east and the west branches, approximately 20,000 to 25,000 acres being given away. Just big fellows.

An hon. Member: We will get it back.

Mr. Thomas: You will get it back all right. The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Jones), when he was speaking yesterday, seemed to think that the trouble arose out of the failure of the British Columbia government to co-operate with the international joint commission. Nothing could be further from the truth. On the contrary, they set up the very commission with the personnel recommended by General McNaughton. How much more could they co-operate?

The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary said that the British Columbia government should give in on this thing and come to the federal government to make peace. No provincial government in Canada has yet come to the federal government asking permission to carry out a project which is of strictly provincial concern, and they are not going to. It is ridiculous to have that sort of reasoning by a member of parliament. Just let the federal government pull in their horns, withdraw this bill and ask the British Columbia government to get together for a conference on this thing and I think you will find the British Columbia government will be only too ready to co-operate.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) has told us how he is concerned about