

*Columbia River Treaty*

reference to Mr. Ripley talking politics or polemics, something of that sort. He did not advance any arguments for or against the treaty; he just gave a sort of gospel bell sermon. In order to indicate that there are engineers who agree with this position, I may say that there have been thousands of copies of this special issue sold in Canada to engineers and other persons. I have been asked for hundreds of them. People write in and say they have heard about this article. An engineer sent me a copy the other day and said he wished to bring to my attention this magnificent article, "Scandal on the Columbia". He did not realize I had already read it.

The hon. member for Brandon-Souris criticized Mr. Ripley. The hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) talked about having him brought in front of the committee for contempt of parliament, as did the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Macdonald). What happened?

**Mr. Byrne:** The whole article was false.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** I apologize for interrupting the hon. member for Kootenay West, but the time allotted to him has expired.

**Mr. Herridge:** May I just complete my sentence, Mr. Speaker?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Herridge:** I was just going to say that I moved a motion to call Mr. Ripley before the committee. He came to the next meeting, and who voted against having him appear before the committee? The hon. member for Brandon-Souris did. After criticizing him, he was not willing to give him an opportunity to appear before the committee, and defend his article. He had the evidence with him to defend that article.

**Mr. Byrne:** He could not defend it because it was full of holes, full of lies.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I was waiting because I thought that surely some of the Liberal members who have been interjecting so frequently would want to give the house the benefit of their views on the Columbia river treaty and protocol.

**Mr. Haidasz:** That was done in the committee.

**Mr. Douglas:** Apparently there is a conspiracy of silence among Liberal members. At the beginning of this debate the Secretary

[Mr. Herridge.]

of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) made a very short statement, consisting mainly of categorical assertions, many of which were completely inaccurate with no substantiation whatsoever, and that has been the sole contribution of the government members to this debate.

I would have thought that they would want to tell us about this treaty and the protocol. The hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) says that Mr. Higgins' article was full of lies and inaccuracies—

**Mr. Byrne:** Mr. Ripley's.

**Mr. Douglas:**—that Mr. Ripley's article was full of lies and inaccuracies, but I notice he has not made any speech pointing out these inaccuracies and alleged lies. Their constituents will want to know why these Liberal members have taken no part in this debate. Certainly the constituents in Kootenay East will be extremely anxious to know why their member, who fought the last election condemning the Conservative administration for the Columbia river treaty, is now supporting it, and without saying one word in this house about why he has done a complete political somersault. I think the constituents of the hon. member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Davis) will want to know why this champion, who wrote a series of articles for the Vancouver newspapers entitled, "The Sell-Out on the Columbia," has now completely reversed his position and is as silent as the grave when this matter is being discussed.

I have noticed the haste of hon. members opposite to keep saying carried.

**Some hon. Members:** Right.

**Mr. Douglas:** They say "right", but I would point out that this treaty binds the people of Canada for 60 years. Moreover, the disposition of water, once made, when certain vested interests have been developed will not easily be changed after 60 years. In many respects the approval of this treaty will commit Canada forever, as the hon. member for Coast-Capilano said over and over again when he was debating this matter in the house back in 1962. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we make no apology for asking the house to take some time to consider what it is giving its approval to.

I want to express my amazement that on a matter so vital to the interests of people in British Columbia in particular and to the people of Canada in general, there has been complete silence on the part of hon. members opposite. Apart from the few trite words