

reserves the power to the federal government,—because it is a river which passed over the boundary,—to license international river improvements so as to ensure that the waters originating in Canada are developed and utilized in the national interest.

This act was passed on July 11, 1955. The act does not apply to international river improvements constructed under the authority of an act of the parliament of Canada, nor to the improvements stated within boundary waters as defined by the boundary waters treaty of January 11, 1909. That is why I think there is a difference. This is an international improvements act, and it refers only to rivers which cross a boundary, and not to boundary waters.

Mr. MCFARLANE: As to the section of the Columbia river which is entirely within British Columbia, does it come under federal jurisdiction, or does it come under provincial jurisdiction?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): It comes under both jurisdictions. They have a board which licenses improvements on the river. But we have the right under this International River Improvements Act to license, as well. And what we do is to consider any projects proposed to see if they are in the national interest. So we do have a type of veto over any improvements on that river.

Mr. MCFARLANE: Actually the responsibility lies with the province?

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Yes.

Mr. MCFARLANE: I have a problem in that area with the Kicking Horse river where it joins the Columbia river. Due to silting it carries refuse downstream which creates a problem right where it joins the Columbia. Part of that area could possibly be flooded due to this silting.

The angle I am getting at is, where does the responsibility lie? Apparently this was brought to the attention of the boundary province and of the federal authorities, and we are not getting anywhere.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Under the definition I have been trying to put forward today I would say that this is a provincial responsibility, but I think we have the negative power of licensing any improvement on the river. But it is their responsibility to propose the work, and as long as it does not hurt anything in the national interest, we accept it.

The CHAIRMAN: The Kicking Horse river originates in one of the national parks. What is the federal responsibility there? If you cannot answer the question today, Mr. Minister, all right.

Mr. KINDT: I would like to ask the minister another question. We would not get very far in this discussion before we got into the question of vegetative coverage; I mean forests, farms, and the vegetative cover to retard water runoff and to prevent soil erosion. Whose responsibility is it? Is it that of the dominion or the provinces, to get into this question which concerns vegetative covering? This is a vital issue, and a lot of our discussion in this committee will center around it.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Qu'Appelle*): Using once again the definition I have just given, if that forest covering lies within the provincial boundary, then it is the responsibility of the province. But the federal government would assure its concern in this matter. Some years ago the federal government entered into a joint agreement with the province of Alberta to have joint development of the eastern rockies under a board known as the Eastern Rockies conservation board. The capital expenditures have been made and the province supervises the operations of that board. We do have one member on it now and the province has two. So we just keep an eye on their activities to protect the federal investment in an attempt to protect that watershed. It is a provincial responsibility,