

Supply—Northern Affairs

I should say that about one quarter of that road has been completed. Progress is not too bad when you consider that there is a 10-year period in which the road can be completed. According to the engineering report, one quarter of the road has been completed.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I have two points which I should like to cover here. One refers to a point raised by the Leader of the Opposition and the other to a point raised by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. In my view both these gentlemen have been trying to make political mileage—

Mr. Pickersgill: It was the Prime Minister who was trying to make political mileage.

Mr. Nielsen: —in trying to pick picayune holes in statements made by the Prime Minister and others concerning this northern development roads' program.

I have had my files sent down from my office and I have in front of me two statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate talks about making statements to the Canadian people which are not accurate. He should listen to a little bit of that advice himself, and so should his leader. They talk about misadvising and misleading the Canadian people on these things. They talk about giving the Canadian people facts which are not facts.

Here is the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition in Vancouver on September 27, 1958:

Diefenbaker's promise of a billion dollar public works program in the Arctic is the phoniest promise ever made in Canadian history.

The Prime Minister, in this house, in any campaign or anywhere else in this country, never said there was going to be a billion dollar public works program in the Arctic. He was describing a national public works program, included in which was a program of northern development roads.

If that statement of the Leader of the Opposition is not misrepresenting what the Prime Minister went to the country with, I do not know what is a misrepresenting statement. The Leader of the Opposition made another statement in Edmonton, Alberta, on October 4, 1958:

Canadians have been hoodwinked by the Progressive Conservative government's promise of northern development.

That also is an extremely misrepresenting statement, because far from hoodwinking Canadians, the figures which I filed in this committee on May 4 show that in the period 1952-57 the total expenditures of the northern administration branch of this department

were \$29,906,075, compared with the period 1957-62 in which these expenditures amount to \$137,600,472.

That is not a phony promise, as was expressed in the statement of the Leader of the Opposition in Edmonton on October 4. That is not hoodwinking the Canadian people. Does the hon. gentleman think it is hoodwinking the Canadian people to say to them, "We will build these development roads to develop the nation's resources"? All he has to do is consider the tungsten mine which is being developed. The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources pointed out that it is the only tungsten mine in Canada and will commence production in November, 1962. The largest single tungsten deposit in the world—it will place Canada in the position of being the world's largest single supplier of this very rare and valuable metal in the race for space.

This is what these roads are accomplishing. These are not roads from igloo to igloo. I would point out to the hon. gentleman once again that he has not yet answered my question as to whether he still adheres to his igloo to igloo statement. I do not think he does, but I should like him to admit it.

Mr. Pearson: Let me ask the minister some further questions on a general subject. I am not dealing with roads at this moment. I will have something more to say about that matter later when I obtain further details about the Prime Minister's statement. Perhaps when I have finished the hon. member for the Yukon will give me the sources of the quotations which he has just been good enough to put on the record.

I should like to ask the minister a question in connection with oil and gas development in the north. How many wells were drilled in the Yukon and Northwest Territories in the year 1959-60, and how many in the year 1960-61? How many acres in this northern area are under exploration, and how many acres are there over which permits are held or have been allotted?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Leader of the Opposition, in asking for some detailed information, restricted his question to the Yukon.

Mr. Pearson: No; the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Mr. Dinsdale: To what period does the hon. gentleman want to go back with respect to acreage permits issued?

Mr. Pearson: Since 1957-58.

Mr. Dinsdale: The following are the figures: