

Natural Resources—Development

conduct. However, the new building program now under way is going to provide a good home and good equipment for a good job.

I should like to give a list of these buildings; I think it is worth noting. The radioactive and chemistry building is under construction. The contract price is \$3,134,000. The contract has been let for \$6,330,000 for the geological building for the geological survey of Canada. There is the administration building, for which the contract has been let at \$2,398,000. The surveys and mapping building to house the mapping branch will cost an estimated \$8 million. This government is very much aware of the need for the development of our resources. Anyone who is in doubt should make a survey of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys establishment.

Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we have listened with interest to the remarks of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. I join with the hon. member for Cape Breton South and others in expressing regret that, according to the reports we have read in the newspapers, he will not be back in this house after the next election. I certainly agree with the hon. member for Cape Breton South that the minister has given some direction in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, and we appreciate the services he has rendered.

Frankly, however, I do not think his comments tonight were quite in keeping with the resolution which is before this house. The house is discussing the control of raw materials which have been or may be discovered in this country, whereas the minister dealt more or less fully with the work his department was doing in developing the natural resources of this country. I think they are two separate things. The minister stressed the work done by the geological survey of his department. With what he said I think we all can concur. We realize that we have there a large group of devoted civil servants who have done a great deal in developing the natural resources of this country.

I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, whether the minister who has just spoken belongs to the Howe school which sneers at the Gordon report, or whether he belongs to the other school which perhaps accepts it more or less regretfully. But if the minister will turn to page 49 of the Gordon commission report he will find one specific paragraph dealing with the geological survey.

It states:

One way in which further aid and stimulus might be given to the mining industry would be to step up quite considerably the rate of mapping and surveying by the geological survey. Excellent

[Mr. Prudham.]

work is being done by this branch of the government service, but unless a considerably larger staff is recruited and steps are taken to retain those who are recruited, the preparation of a geological map of Canada will not be completed for many years.

Then the report goes on further to deal with the work the geological survey has done. We admit it has done some work, but there is still much room for development in that connection.

The minister also referred to the geophysical survey and the hydrographic service of his department. We realize that is valuable work. I remember that last year, in committee of supply, the minister admitted that many of the maps which are at present under his department—despite the million which he said were published last year—are based on maps which were prepared by British naval captains and officers back in the days before Canada became a nation. Hence there is a great deal of room for development in that field as well. But as I said, what we are concerned with particularly in this resolution is the control of these resources as they may be developed.

My friend the hon. member for Cape Breton South, who is usually an optimist, I thought tonight adopted somewhat of a pessimistic attitude toward this resolution.

Mr. Gillis: A realistic attitude.

Mr. Nowlan: He says "realistic". I trust he has not become like Father Time in that he confuses pessimism with realism. I thought in his remarks tonight he was almost shrugging his shoulders and saying, as the saying goes, "Nothing can be done nohow, nowhere, no place". He said these national resources came within the control of the provinces, he spoke about the tremendous leases and contracts which have been granted, and he implied that nothing could be done.

The Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, despite the fact that he is retiring, is much more optimistic than is the hon. member for Cape Breton South, because the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys pointed out the tremendous developments which are taking place every day, the new fields which are being discovered, the new mines which are being opened. Undoubtedly others which have not yet been leased will be leased to some of these huge corporations which are so repugnant to the hon. member for Cape Breton South.

As the minister pointed out, there will be tremendous discoveries come in the future. It is with that vision in mind that we are bringing forward this resolution tonight. It is granted that there are some resources which are leased. It is granted that there are contracts which have been made. But contracts