

● (1610)

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about how much I regret this direction by the new Government toward private sector research. We have a strong tradition of Crown corporations and public service in this country. I do not see any reason why we could not have created, within the public sector, the capacity to do that kind of research. Presumably we could trust that research for two reasons. The first reason is that it would be done with the Canadian context in mind, and the second is that it would be done by people whose next pay-cheque was not dependent upon a grant from the very multinationals whose products were being tested.

Instead, from the Conservative Government we get a continuation, with all due respect to my Liberal colleagues, of a direction, which was already being established by the former Liberal Government, of wanting to have more of this done in the private sector and winding down the public end of that. It is a black day for the environment in Canada as a result of the cut-backs made by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, I have some comments with respect to the presentation just made. We heard a repetition of the old NDP ideas that Judge Berger's report on the Mackenzie Valley was the best thing since sliced bread, that we should not produce oil in the Arctic but rather leave it in the ground, and that development in the North should not take place.

I would like to remind the Hon. Member that this view was repudiated, not only in southern Canada at the time of the last election, but right across the north. The three northern ridings, Yukon, Western Arctic and Nunatsiak, all returned PC Members to the House of Commons. People have had the opposite idea, namely, that we should develop the resources in that part of the country, that those areas should not be turned into some kind of reserve but should play their full role within Confederation, and that we should pay our way, so to speak. That can best be done by developing the resources there. That is my comment with respect to the worn out suggestions made by the Hon. Member.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short reply. I would like to make it clear to the Hon. Member for Western Arctic that no one, not myself, not Members of the New Democratic Party, nor Judge Berger in his report, ever suggested that there ought to be no development in the North. In fact, a great deal of attention was devoted to the type of development which would be beneficial economically to the whole of Canada and also respectful of the traditional renewable resource economy of the North. I heard the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Suluk) speak on that very topic today in Question Period.

I am always surprised at the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson). Coming from where he does, he gets up and pours abuse on the Berger report. It is very interesting that he would do that because he knows, if he knows anything at all, that this is one of the most widely read Canadian royal commissions. It is respected by many people in the North. For him to get up and call the Berger report some sort of old NDP

The Address—Mr. Blaikie

idea is very curious rhetoric indeed. I am sure that many people in the North would want to apprise themselves of the kind of things that the Hon. Member for Western Arctic says when he gets up in the House of Commons. I wonder if he goes around the North dumping all over the Berger report. It would be interesting to know whether he does that.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy the comments of the Hon. Member for Birds Eye, is it, Birds Hill, or something to do with a bird. However, I cannot agree with him. I would like to go back in history a little to illustrate how wrong this idea of having government do everything is.

We would not have oil and gas from Alberta in Canada today if we had followed the recommendations of the old CCF which preceded the NDP. There were only two members of that Party left there, but they advocated using public money rather than allowing money to come into the country to develop our oil and gas. If we had not permitted American money to come in and develop our resources there, we would not have a heritage fund in Alberta today. Rather, we would be a few more billion dollars in debt. However, since we permitted money to come in to develop our resources, give jobs to our people and put taxes in our Government's coffers, we have an oil and gas industry today of which we can be proud.

The idea of allowing government to do everything just does not hold water. That is why we have a reduction of people in the Opposition. They wanted government to do everything. I say, let private enterprise do it. Give it a chance. Take the shackles off. Unbuckle its hands. The Liberals put handcuffs on free enterprise with the help of the NDP. As a result, we have 1.5 million unemployed and a debt of \$190 billion. Let us unshackle free enterprise as we are trying to do. Then we will see things move. There will be jobs, resources and tax money. That is the kind of country we are building.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would remind the Hon. Member not to comment on the name of the riding of the Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill. Does the Hon. Member wish to answer the question?

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I was first going to say, with all due respect to the people of the town of Birds Hill, Manitoba, that I wish Hon. Members opposite would desist from making fun of the name of my riding. I say this not for my own sake, because I can take any kind of abuse these people over here can throw at me. I have a sense of humour like everyone else, but I think there is a certain amount of decorum involved. I do not go around twisting the names of other people's ridings. The fact that the words "Birds Hill" lend themselves to this is unfortunate. I just wanted to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that intervention on behalf of the people of Birds Hill.

With your permission, I will now make a comment on what the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) had to say. The Hon. Member for Bow River is known for his enthusiastic defence of the free enterprise system. He is as good at turning up the volume as anyone here. However, I noticed that he did