

resource policy in Canada is simply an untidy mass of "ad hockery". On the contrary, in a broad sense there is an underlying agreement on the fundamentals of resource management. There is agreement that this management should provide for the best use of resources that is possible in the public interest; agreement that renewable resources should be managed in such a way that they shall be renewed in perpetuity; that the development of Canada's resources should be economic; and finally that the best means of ensuring this economic development is, in general, to have it undertaken by private enterprise. Taken together these fundamentals create a large and basic consistency in resource management.

To go beyond that, however, to try to impose an overall blueprint, a "National Policy", as some understand it, for resource management - to do that is to depart from the facts of our national situation. I have suggested already why such a "master plan" must fail of its purpose. In a country as vast as Canada, with widely different conditions and with different problems in different areas, there cannot be a single and unified policy for the management of resources. The fact that the B.N.A. Act places resources under the control of the provinces is not a matter of accident or coincidence, it is rather a reflection of the basic facts of our national existence. Resource problems are generally regional problems or local problems and must be handled on a regional or local basis. Thus it is that the facts dictate, and our constitution requires, that our resource management be in the hands of the provinces. This is the framework and the background in which we must see the problems of resource management and development in Canada. Accordingly, to advocate a "national policy" on a national basis as a responsibility of the national government is to misread the facts of our economy and the spirit and letter of our constitution.

What resource management in Canada does call for is wise and constructive handling. It does call for careful thought and planning. And if we are to have it we need first to know as far as we can just how large and varied our resources are, for otherwise intelligent planning for their use must remain beyond our reach. The next step is to relate the extent of these resources to the demands on them which are forecast for the years ahead. One of the most important functions of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, the Gordon Commission, established by the Federal Government has been to undertake just such a forecast. Its assessment of the future demand for the products of land, mine and forest will provide an invaluable basis for resource planning. It will be of great assistance to the provinces in their management programmes and also to private enterprise. The work of the Gordon Commission therefore has immense importance for all who have responsibilities for the management of Canada's natural resources.

There is yet another prerequisite for sound resource management, and that is that the Canadian people be educated to appreciate the necessity and value of this planning to the