

Diefenbaker government. That was ridiculed by the Liberals. Canada would be well on the road to being self-sufficient today if that program had been carried on when the Liberals came back to office in 1963, but they disbanded it and made a lot of smart aleck remarks about our building roads from igloo to igloo, and that sort of thing.

I would like to quote from a speech made by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), who has been involved in energy for many years in this country and who worked with our former leader, Mr. Diefenbaker, with respect to the roads to resources program. He spoke at the opening of the Dempster highway, which was delayed for about seven or eight years by the Liberals. He said:

Actually, the Dempster highway was one of the main anchors of the whole concept of the roads to resources program. If one looks at a map of Canada on a conic projection, it will be seen that Canada from Labrador to Yukon is a part of a circle of land that centres on the Arctic Islands.

These islands were once part of the tropics of the earth. From Stefansson's time, the eyes of the world's explorers were focused on this potential treasure house of resources. Stefansson named several of the islands after ministers of the cabinet that sponsored his explorations. This angered Mackenzie King who proceeded to name an island after himself.

That is typical. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain also stated:

When I became minister in 1957, I immediately tried to pull all the information together on how we could get a road through to the Arctic coast as fast as possible. From my analysis of the Paley report of 1952, based on U.S.A. resources, I knew that Canada should have access to Arctic Islands hydrocarbons by 1980.

● (1750)

This was back in 1957. Just imagine what would have been the result of continuing that program.

We are very concerned about energy. Energy has been a priority of the Conservative party for many years. The hon. member went on to say that when he became a minister he found a map by some unknown civil servant in the old department of the interior which projected generalized routes to the Arctic. He added:

I found oil and gas regulations which gave everything to the finder. The regulations were obsolete. The department had no real resource people left in it so I went to resource people in industry, Dr. Link, Dr. Sproule and my brother, all of whom had then retired, and they assisted in the roads to resources program.

I just want to make it clear that we are the party which has shown leadership over the years in introducing the unemployment insurance plan and mortgage deductibility. We introduced the roads to resources program years ago, and these constant references to us by Liberals and spokesmen for the NDP as a party not conscious of people's needs are entirely unfounded. Mr. Speaker, we are more conscious of people's needs in this country than the NDP and Liberal parties put together. Back in 1973, even in opposition we were pursuing a natural resource policy for Canada. I have in my hand a number of documents we put out in 1973 with regard to oil supplies and all the rest.

I hope this will straighten out the position to some extent, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your indulgence.

The Address—Mr. MacLellan

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, first, I should like to congratulate you on your reappointment to your office. I would like to say how pleased I am to be elected as the member of Parliament for the constituency of Cape Breton-The Sydneys. As such, and on behalf of my constituents, I should like to thank Senator Robert Muir for his 22 years of fine service to the people of that constituency.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacLellan: As well, I should like to congratulate Senator Muir on his elevation to the Senate. I can truthfully say I share in his success.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacLellan: I am somewhat reassured during the first three days of the sitting of this, the Thirty-first Parliament, because I believe that once the news of the weather in Ottawa this week reaches Cape Breton I may be unopposed in the next federal election.

With reference to the Speech from the Throne, the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) said yesterday that Canadians should raise their expectations. From what we have heard since May 22 the only Canadians with any expectations are those who form the present government. Certainly we in Atlantic Canada cannot have any expectations as long as the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens) is running loose. Prior to May 22 certain areas in Atlantic Canada were promised assistance in the form of the decentralization of various government departments. But following the May 22 election the President of the Treasury Board decreed that this should not take place and the excuse he gave was that the government had to save money, but that money should be saved only in some of these constituencies.

In Nova Scotia decentralization plans were cancelled only in two constituencies represented in this Parliament by opposition members. This is more than just a coincidence when one considers that there are only three constituencies in Nova Scotia represented by opposition members and that decentralization plans had not been made for the third constituency.

In Cape Breton-The Sydneys decentralization was to take the form of almost 400 jobs for the area. Land was purchased and the architectural work for a new building was well under way. There is no question but that in addition to providing jobs decentralization would have revitalized the downtown area of Sydney, from which there would have been a spin-off effect evident in new stores and buildings.

I feel the fact that the government has broken most of the promises it made during the election campaign—and kept the ones it should have broken—is unacceptable to the people of Canada. It is certainly even less acceptable to break the promises of the previous government. The actions of the President of the Treasury Board amount to nothing more than petulant vindictiveness and I appeal to the hon. gentleman to reconsider his action of cancelling decentralization in the