

• (5:40 p.m.)

Not only must we emphasize the importance of the individual but we must recognize the fact that a necessary concomitant of this principle is an economic climate in which full opportunity is given for the exercise of individual initiative and the fulfilment of individual responsibility. I should like to emphasize once again that all our activities, all our endeavours, all our programs, all our projects, everything we endeavour to accomplish, are of value only as they contribute to the betterment of people. I think the scriptural precept, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath," was referred to yesterday. I believe we have to change it and say that the tremendous resources of this country are here for the benefit of mankind and everything we do must be directed toward the accomplishing of that objective.

I appreciate the opportunity of making these few comments on the amendment. Much has been said about the laxity of the government in meeting some of the problems that face us. They are problems that confront people everywhere and every level of government. I suppose that some conclude they can make a better contribution and deal with them in a more efficient way than others. But I trust we realize that in the working out of these problems it will take the very best of our collective wisdom, judgment, insight, industry, everything that we possess, to find their solution and to move forward into the better type of society that we all wish to see established.

Mr. Richard Cashin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, like most hon. members, I am sure, I have followed with interest this classic example of the shotgun, machine-gun approach of the opposition. There seems, however, to have been one consistency throughout the speeches of all hon. members opposite and that is a considerable variance from the facts.

I wish I had before me all the statements of the previous Conservative speaker, the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale). It would appear to somebody outside parliament who had never before been in Canada, knew nothing of Canadian history or of the development of government in this country but had listened to the hon. member's speech from one of the galleries, that through some accident of fate a great and enlightened administration which had bestowed wonders on the Canadian people

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had been unfortunately removed from office because of some miscalculation in 1963 and had been replaced by a government that had done nothing up to this time.

Mr. Dinsdale: The people realize that now. Look at the Gallup poll.

Mr. Cashin: Nothing could be farther from the truth. The hon. gentleman opposite asked for federal initiative to be taken. When questioned by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Pepin) he said, as he evaded and avoided the answer, that unfortunately the minister did not get the point. I agree with him. The minister did not get the point and I do not think anybody else got it. I have considerable doubt that there was any point in what the hon. member was saying.

It seems to me that a great many federal initiatives have been taken in the field of resources. For example, I could point to the work and programs of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development. The programs undertaken by this department are an example of a great and unprecedented initiative of the federal government to deal not only with human resources but, in specific areas, those natural resources which can properly be developed and exploited in conjunction with the beneficial development of our human resources.

Mr. Dinsdale: Under our ARDA program.

Mr. Cashin: In fact, one of the great things we are now discovering about the Department of Forestry and Rural Development, in contrast to the vague suggestions of the hon. member opposite, is this. Under the previous administration we had a shotgun approach to these problems and nothing of consequence was accomplished. It was up to the present administration, under the distinguished minister from the Magdalen Islands, the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauv ), to establish a co-ordinated, comprehensive program to give meaning to what hitherto had been a fuzzy idea of hon. gentlemen opposite.

I congratulate the hon. member for Brandon-Souris in this respect because it is better to have six years of government with one fuzzy idea than to have six years of government with no ideas. I congratulate the previous administration for having produced something, fuzzy and obscure as it may have been but nevertheless a worth-while idea, during their six years in government.