

The Prime Minister took it upon himself to explain what the policy of this party was as enunciated in our rally on the question of shared programs, so I had better put on the record what took place so that there will be an accurate statement available to the committee showing what the policy is.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Which one is this?

Mr. Pearson: I put on the record the policy statement of the national Liberal rally held in January, 1961 in relation to this particular problem. It comes under the resolution dealing with federal-provincial relations. Here is what was said. Incidentally, the difference between the resolutions passed by our convention and the resolutions of the meetings held by the party to which hon. members opposite belong is that they do not come up with any resolutions; they burn them after the convention is over. Having looked at some of those resolutions before they were burned I can understand the desire to shovel them into the fire. We keep our resolutions and we make them public because that is the way Liberalism operates. Here is the resolution on this particular subject:

The Liberal party believes in regular consultation with the provinces in order to ensure that priorities in the use of taxes are kept constantly in line with changing conditions and in order to ensure that the provincial governments have adequate revenues to provide their citizens an adequate standard of services and to perform their constitutional obligations. For example, several programs, like disability pensions, which had to be started on a shared-cost basis by federal and provincial governments are now established throughout Canada.

This was in January, 1961, not in Quebec a few months ago, and this was at a council of the Liberal party where all the provinces were represented and every provincial representative had a chance to speak. The resolution goes on:

In these cases a new Liberal government will be happy to leave the field entirely to the provinces, and to evolve appropriate readjustments in its taxes, so as to provide for full provincial financing. An important new area for co-operation is in the borrowing operations of municipal, provincial and federal authorities. Co-ordination could reduce the costs of borrowing to municipalities and provinces. In this and all other matters the Liberal party looks on the federal, provincial and municipal governments not as warring competitors but as effective partners in a democratic federal system.

The Deputy Chairman: It being five o'clock it is my duty to leave the chair in order that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

Progress reported.

Proposals to Extend Territorial Waters

Mr. Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, private bills—of which there are none—then notices of motion for papers, followed by public bills. The house will begin with notices of motion for papers.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING TERRITORIAL WATERS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena) moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, and other documents exchanged between the government or any agency, department, or branch thereof, and any other government since April 1, 1960, relating to the breadth of the territorial sea and proposals for the widening thereof.

He said: It seems a shame to interrupt a lively discussion on a domestic matter in order to turn to the more rarefied international one which is primarily the subject of the present motion—a motion which falls largely within the responsibility of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The motion seeks a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, and other documents exchanged between the government or any agency thereof and any other government since April 1, as was read out from the chair, with regard to this matter. I think everyone in the house will agree, especially those who have association with the fisheries industry, that this subject is one of vital importance to the industry itself, to the country and to the future of our fisheries.

What makes it a little bit difficult to debate the matter fully is the fact that I think it is somewhat narrow. We cannot get into the subject matter of that which is stated in the correspondence. About all we have on which to base our discussion is those few statements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) which are contained in *Hansard* and which relate to this particular set of documents, if such a set exists. Yesterday the minister, reading from a formal prepared text, I gather objected to the tabling of these documents or the acceptance of the motion. I might read his remarks. They are to be found at page 631 of *Hansard* and are as follows:

There is very good reason why we cannot comply with this request. It is important that nothing be said or done which might prejudice the significance of the 1960 vote at Geneva on the joint Canada-United States "six plus six" formula. Reference to any action undertaken or still in progress could do just that. Consideration of this matter has been and is being actively pursued by Canada and other like minded countries.