

*National Development Policy*

there was unanimous consent. In the present instance the unanimous consent of the house to permit the hon. member for Mackenzie River to carry on his speech is lacking. I must, therefore, give the floor to the next speaker.

**Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South):** I had hoped, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member might be permitted to continue so that perhaps he might reach one or two conclusions. But I appreciate, of course, the rules of this house, and within the short space of time I have I shall endeavour myself to reach some conclusion. I should like to refer back to comments which were made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) in his most interesting dissertation when he moved his amendment. I shall quote but one paragraph, as reported on page 1964 of *Hansard* for July 7, 1958:

We do not have to worry about these resources; they are there, and they will be of great value to the world in the years ahead. Surely the thing to do now is to plan and develop for those years ahead carefully and soundly and with all the vigour which is required by any particular policy.

The experience, in the development of resources is such that, sound as that policy may be, one cannot take any section of resources or development in any country of the world and say that it will be there in the years to come if we do nothing more than develop or exploit it to the point that it will be there when we require it. The fact of the matter is that in Alberta, as an example of one area which is developing its resources, we have learned by sad experience that unless you are in a position to make an assessment of what your resources are, unless you are able to determine the length and breadth of the resources, you are not able to introduce those conservation measures which are so essential. We find today, for example, that in Alberta we have mineable coal to the extent of 48 million tons; we are discovering oil at the rate of 300 million barrels per year; the remaining proven recoverable reserves of natural gas are estimated to be between 25 trillion and 27 trillion cubic feet.

Our experience has been this. Unless you are able to make an assessment of what you have, unless you can determine the area you have yet to develop, it is absolutely impossible to develop any conservation methods to apply to those areas, and I refer to the north in particular. Let us look and see what has happened since this government introduced certain measures to encourage the exploitation or development of our northern assets. I have not the current figures, but my information is sufficiently current to give an indication. We know that it is estimated that there are 750,000 acres available in the great pre-Cambrian shield for geological research in

connection with oil reserves. We have added practically a new continent by encouraging people under the new oil and gas regulations, of the N. W. T. by making available new transportation facilities and by making available new access roads to these areas, to initiate probably the greatest drive for exploration of oil and development. It may yet even exceed the outstanding success of Alberta.

I suggest that this is already to the credit of this government. I am going to leave that section of policy which has been so ably presented to this house by the minister and the previous speaker. I should like to say a word about one of the instruments of government, the geological survey, to which the hon. member who has just taken his seat referred. I should like to refer also to the accompanying division of the mines and minerals branch. I regret that in past years this section of our government has been regarded as the poor relation. In spite of this it has carried out, in the interests of industry but not to the point of interference with the ordinary course of private enterprise, exhaustive surveys through the geological branch and analyses of the problems industry must face. There has been assistance and co-operation with industry and a vast fund of information made available which makes this country one of the leaders in research in respect to our mineral wealth. We spend slightly under \$3 million a year for this department. I heard the hon. member who has just spoken pleading with the government to give consideration to providing some encouragement for youths who are leaving our educational institutions and looking for employment by taking them into this particular section, thus enabling them to find work and experience. This plan was introduced at the request of the Geological Association of Canada, and today the department has accepted their recommendation and is employing a third again as many over last year of young geologists coming from our schools. They are carrying out work under the geological survey of Canada.

I realize that in the time which is allotted to me I must arrive at a conclusion rather than make observations. We have had from our minister of northern affairs a statement with which I heartily concur to the effect that one of the principal assets of this government as compared with the former government is the policy of making some plans and taking some action in connection with the need for the development of our resources in Canada. As he stated, this is one of the great distinguishing features, the nature of the action that has been taken as compared with the lack of action. I suggest that when this government is in a position, through