

The Address—Mr. Nielsen

almost \$445 million to the national economy; they were not prepared to wait for the development of the forests and mines of British Columbia; they were not prepared to wait for the uranium, industrial and other resources of the prairie provinces to develop. Sir John A. Macdonald and his government of that day built those communications, and who today can doubt the wisdom of their having done so.

Today just as then, we have another great, and Conservative, Prime Minister. He and his government have formulated a new and dynamic national development policy; a program involving the construction of a vast network of roads and other communications in northern Canada; a program which is the first step in a long overdue aggressive approach to national development; a program based principally on northern development, parts of which are already under way—for instance the survey of the road north from the Dawson city area of Yukon into the oil bearing area of the Peel plateau has started.

I might pause for a moment to mention, sir, that contrary to the belief of some hon. members to your left, Yukon is not a land where there is nobody, and I can assure you, sir, that there are really no igloos in Yukon.

The speech from the throne will bring satisfaction to Canadians everywhere as they note the definitive measures of this government to give effect to its policies. The whole national development policy can reach fruition only as we build our communication and transportation lines to enable our raw materials to be collected, processed and distributed.

Under former governments proven resources had to exist before development roads could be built. We now see roads projected that will enable Canadians actually to carry out the development tasks that must follow upon exploration before resources can be proven and brought to market.

A few moments ago I spoke of the projected road into the potential oil fields of northern Yukon. It is with a great deal of gratification that I note that since the Prime Minister's opening campaign address in Winnipeg three months ago today—an address in which the Prime Minister outlined the national development policy of this government

—almost 25 million acres have been taken out in Yukon and Northwest Territories oil exploration permits. The oil companies concerned are committed at this date to spend \$25 million in exploration work in Yukon alone. This is action suited to the need.

The railway to Great Slave lake will bring into production the vast mineral deposits at Pine Point on the south shore of the lake. The decision to proceed with the development of this mine is an indication of the confidence with which Canadian investors greet the forward-looking policies of this government. This railway will unlock these mines. It will connect the railway system of Canada to Mackenzie river navigation without the impediments of the shallows of the Athabasca delta and the portage at Fort Smith. The railway will also bring life to other resources along its route—timber, fish, agriculture, the vast wealth of oil in the tar sands and other mineral deposits.

North from Great Slave lake we are to see a road pushed through to Great Bear lake and ultimately to the Arctic coast linking up with the route through the promising Yukon oil fields to Fort McPherson. Roads in the northern parts of the provinces are welcome news to all as they are most essential to northern development and to the full realization of the resources development program.

So, we see the first steps that are being taken to unite Canada north and south, just as they were taken so long ago to unite this nation east and west. It gives me as a Yukoner and a northerner the utmost gratification to reflect on the manner in which all Canadians have overwhelmingly caught the vision of a new and greater Canada.

In seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne I should like to conclude on a note of warmest satisfaction that in this year of Yukon's gold rush jubilee we are seeing the beginning of a truly national development—northward. I should like to think that in welcoming this new era I speak not just for the people of Yukon but for all Canadians everywhere.

On motion of Mr. Pearson the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Diefenbaker the house adjourned at 5.30 p.m.