

Supply—Resources and Development

of our natural resources. Did not the minister discuss the development of our natural resources in two speeches, one delivered in Toronto and the other in Montreal? Did he not enunciate a great system of development to aid in the expansion of this country?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Order?

An hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You know nothing about order. I am asking the questions. Apparently some hon. members think that by making a noise and by howling they are making an intelligent contribution, but I tell them that they are not going to stop the discussion of these items.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): That is very clever.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You are not one of those in that position.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): I hope not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am asking the minister what happened to that policy which was enunciated when he spoke in Montreal and Toronto. Sometimes we have to read statements made outside the house in order to find out what government policy is going to be. I was much in accord with what the minister said and I am sure the Canadian people read his remarks with interest. But I would like to have the minister enunciate those plans in the house, plans which to say the least are ephemeral until they are discussed in the House of Commons.

I am not arguing whether my hon. friend has the right to discuss iron ore or steel, but I would like the minister to enlarge upon the remarks he made in Toronto and Montreal. The Canadian people want to know if Canada has assumed responsibilities under the North Atlantic pact as was evidenced in press dispatches of the last few days dealing with a meeting in London. The Canadian people want to know to what degree Canada's resources are to be utilized and its development expanded to the end that we may assume our responsibilities under that pact.

This department was set up to deal with the development of our resources and Canadians as a whole should know what we are going to do in regard to the production of minerals and other war materials which will be needed in the event of defence becoming necessary. The United States resources of oil, iron and many other requirements for defence are rapidly being diminished and are passing out of existence. The only country of the north Atlantic group that can supply many

of the materials that will be necessary to the composite defence of the members of the North Atlantic pact is Canada. I should like to hear the minister speak with the same authority, the same vision and the same challenge to the Canadian people that he evinced when he delivered the two speeches to which I have referred.

Mr. Winters: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that that is a sound argument as to why I should go outside my jurisdiction in this House of Commons. It is true that I have made speeches in various parts of the country dealing with different subjects. For example, I represent a fishing constituency and whenever I get a chance I speak about fish, but that does not mean that I can discuss fish in this house when we are dealing with the administration item of the Department of Resources and Development.

I give the undertaking that hon. members will be able to discuss this matter more appropriately at another time. Surely it is a matter of timing and in the interests of expediting the work of the house I suggest that hon. members address themselves to what is before the committee and what is within the jurisdiction of this department.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Chairman, you ruled me out of order but I find that I am now in order.

Mr. Thomas: Mr. Chairman, I want to say just a few words this afternoon to add my voice to what was said this morning about the problem of reforestation. I realize that this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the provinces, but I submit that the federal government has not taken an active enough part in a matter that concerns the lifeblood of our civilization. It is estimated that up to the present time at least fifty per cent of our forests have been depleted and that fire and insects are destroying 800 million cubic feet of timber per year. Then I should like to stress that 900 million cubic feet per year are being lost through wastage in the industry.

Many hon. members may wonder why a member from a prairie province should take an interest in this particular matter, but I would point out that more than three-quarters of Alberta is covered with timber of one kind or another, some good, some not so good. There are something like 59,000 square miles of marketable timber in Alberta and there are something like 400 permanent and over 300 portable saw mills in operation.

Considerable lumbering is carried on in the western half of my constituency around Breton and Winfield. Last spring while