

*Policy Statement on National Resources*

"Land Resources Study". I do not intend to take time this afternoon to read these recommendations because I assume that every member of parliament has already done so. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of land study in agricultural development, and I think this fits in very well with the reference in the amendment to the fact that consideration should be given to agriculture. The brief contains one recommendation relating to forestry which is of importance.

I have with me a memorandum to the government of Canada from the Canadian Labour Congress which deals at some length with these matters. It calls attention to and emphasizes the fact that these resources are important to the Canadian economy and the Canadian people. It urges the government to evolve an over-all policy in respect of the development of these resources, while at the same time applying conservation techniques. These policies must take two objectives into account. First of all we must exploit these resources for the benefit of those of us who are living today. We should not take the attitude that we dare not develop these resources but must protect them and deprive ourselves of the immediate benefits. There is a difference, however, between utilizing them for human betterment and wasting them. There is a clear distinction between these two propositions.

A recent letter published by the Royal Bank of Canada refers to this age as the "throw-away age" and it deals at some length with the wastage of not only material but human resources. There is a difference between wastage and the exploitation of resources for the advantage of society. Policies evolved by the government must be policies providing for the economic well-being of the people today while at the same time providing conservation for the benefit of future generations.

The ultimate purpose of the development of natural resources is closely related to paragraph (d) of the amendment which refers to human resources. The ultimate purpose of the development of our natural resources must be related to the full development of human resources. I hope the fact that human resources are mentioned last in the amendment is not indicative of the relative importance of human and natural resource development.

Let me deal briefly with the development of human resources. We are in danger of becoming engrossed with the physical and

material aspects of our society. We are becoming overwhelmed by advances in science and technology. We are awed by the magnitude of our universe and we are impressed by the concept of internationalism. In other words, so accustomed are we to looking at the big and spectacular developments of our age that we are inclined to overlook the principle that man is the most important unit in our society. Although the development of our natural resources is of great importance I believe supreme importance remains with the development of our human resources.

Today we consider the phrase "wastage of human resources" in the sense of a potential loss so far as society is concerned. We think of the little which has been done to assist the mentally retarded in reaching the highest degree of development and progress of which they are capable. We think of the members of our society incarcerated behind prison bars whose capabilities are being wasted so far as constructive, useful and creative activity is concerned. We think of the maladjusted and less fortunate individuals in our society. We must direct our energies and our dedication as well as our financial resources to the solution of these problems just as we direct them to the field of resource development. The same concern and endeavours must be applied to our human resources.

What are some of the things of importance to the development of our human resources? We think immediately of health, which is our greatest asset, and we think of the knowledge and skills required to enable us to take our proper places in this automated and technological era. We think of the importance of inculcating into the minds of our people a sense of values in respect of the development of our society and we think of the opportunities that must be made available to every individual regardless of his or her capability, social standing or economic position. We must create equal opportunity and remunerative employment and place them within the reach of all our people wherever they may live. We must bring the development of human resources to the point where each and every member of our society has the right to the opportunity of developing his or her personality to the utmost degree possible, the right to make a constructive contribution to society and the right to move forward with their fellow men in the creation and development of a society which will guarantee to each and every one the possibility of living in an environment consistent with the dignity of the individual.

[Mr. Patterson.]