

Natural Resources—Development

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, today's announcement by the Prime Minister regarding the meeting that is to take place in Bermuda, at which he will be present during the latter day or days, is one more indication of the degree to which Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom find themselves allies, making their respective contributions to the preservation and maintenance of peace with freedom throughout the world.

However, I was disappointed that the Prime Minister did not see fit to invite the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to Canada. I cannot understand the attitude of the government in this regard. In the days of war, at the Quebec conference, there was begun a movement, in a joint alliance, that led to victory. Why the government of Canada should now seem so afraid to do anything in so far as our country is concerned to bring together Britain and the United States in a conference is difficult of understanding. I wonder what is the reason for this.

Notwithstanding the vast reserves that we possess, the contribution that has been made in two world wars, the degree to which today our mineral and other resources are making their contribution to the forces of freedom everywhere in the world, for some reason that has not been explained, though there is a tremendous desire—and a commendable one—to make a contribution in the United Nations, there does not seem to be a similar attitude of mind when it comes to bringing together the United Kingdom and the United States with Canada.

Only today Canadians heard with, I would say, considerable surprise an announcement made over the American Broadcasting Corporation by Mr. E. O. Newman regarding Canada's attitude last fall during the Suez affair. We have never been able to find, nor were we able to secure, the message that was sent by the government of Canada to the former prime minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Anthony Eden. What that message contained no one knows, because when application was made to the United Kingdom for publication of that message the government of Canada very carefully provided in the request that if that message were to be made available then all of the correspondence and all of the private messages which had passed over a period of months would have to be included.

And over and over again, because of the government's failure to produce that document and its apparent desire to conceal it,

having regard to the kind of message that was sent to the government of the United Kingdom, information is forthcoming in various ways interpretative of what that message included. And today we are faced, over the American Broadcasting Corporation system, with information that the Prime Minister's letter to Sir Anthony Eden in the fall of 1956 contained a warning that unless Britain and France called off the invasion of Egypt within 24 hours Canada would withdraw from the commonwealth.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Whoever made that statement, Mr. Speaker, made a very inaccurate statement and one that is entirely false.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that statement on the part of the Prime Minister places him in a position where he interprets the message—

An hon. Member: It does not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —where he says that we cannot see the message, but where he gives us the contents by negation.

And when I heard the Prime Minister say today that no invitation had been extended to Britain and to the United States to meet here in Canada, I found it difficult to understand the reasons why, after so long, this government, in view of Canada's outstanding place in the international world, should seem so diffident about doing a thing that on the face of it would seem to be a reasonable one.

Certainly, the events of the past few weeks indicate that there will be an acceleration of the "cold war"; that everywhere in the world it will be waged more aggressively than ever before, and that we, within our own country and within the nations of the free world, will have to give more and more attention to the preservation of our freedom on the defence front, and also to the preservation of our economic strength in order to meet the trade offensive that is being launched everywhere in the world.

Everywhere today the search is for the raw materials necessary for defence. One of the major reasons for Nasser's action in the Suez and also the degree to which he is undermining Britain and France in the Middle East is the fact that in that area there are vast supplies of oil which as Nasser has set forth in his book are necessary if the instruments of technology are to be mobilized effectively. We know more in the last weeks as the result of Khrushchev's announcement that the de-Stalinization of the idol has taken place. He now reverses that attitude and everywhere in the world the U.S.S.R. is engaged