

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

oil well to oil well or from community to community, I would point out that these roads and their construction were put forward as a cure for unemployment, and I ask the hon. member to read the Prime Minister's speeches of that time when they were put forward as a cure for unemployment.

That was a phony performance and has been so described in the house many times. One reason why it has been shown to be so is the figures that have been given in the house of the amount of employment provided over the years by the construction of these very important and valuable roads for development purposes, whether from igloo to igloo, oil well to oil well or town to town. I will send him the text of my statement and also the text of the Prime Minister's statement so that the hon. member will be able to refresh his memory and be quite clear as to what is involved.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I want to say one last word. As recently as last week I read these statements very carefully, and I mean no intentional disrespect to the Leader of the Opposition when I suggest that his interpretation of the Prime Minister's statement as being the promise of a cure for unemployment is, to say the least, a phony or less than accurate interpretation of the statements that were made. The Leader of the Opposition can speak as much as he likes about road development in the Yukon and how much he supports it now. That was not the position he took in 1958 when he introduced an amendment to a supply motion decrying the efforts of the government to develop roads in the north and saying that regional preference should be given rather than that such development should be carried on on a national basis.

He can speak as long as he likes in trying to wiggle out of his igloo to igloo statement, but there was no doubt in the minds of the people of this country, particularly the people of the north where I live, that the impression he was trying to leave with them was that these roads were useless, that they were roads from igloo to igloo and were not necessary for the development of national resources as opposed to regional resources. I do not think he can ever escape having that statement affixed to him, although I am sure he is rather sorry now that he made it when resources are being developed as a result of such road construction, which he perhaps thought was not going to be the case when he made these statements.

**Mr. Pearson:** On the question of accuracy, Mr. Chairman, before these estimates are through we will have an opportunity to put on the record what was said on both sides, and perhaps that will help in that regard.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Also on the question of accuracy, one of the reasons why I asked the minister to put on *Hansard* this afternoon the figures I requested and which he was good enough to give was to compare on the ground of accuracy the figures which the minister gave this afternoon with those that were given over the air by the Prime Minister a year ago. When the hon. member reads the two sets of figures in *Hansard* tomorrow, perhaps he will not have so much to say about accuracy with regard to statistics affecting the north.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I will always have something to say about accuracy. I do not mean to be unkind but I think the Leader of the Opposition is merely drawing this distinction to further the political ends of his own party. The fact remains that if you compare the dollars spent in the north as I set forth the figures in *Hansard* of May 4, you will find we have advanced from a position where under a Liberal government we were spending for the national development of resources in the north \$1.2 million or \$1.3 million annually to a figure of \$6.9 million annually since the present government took office. I think the distinction lies there.

**Mr. Pearson:** We will have something to say about expenditures too. If you take the expenditures made under one item in these estimates, the relocation of Aklavik, you will see how much was involved in total expenditures there and under what program that was carried out. But I ask the minister again, or the hon. member if he would like to reply, does he consider this to be an accurate statement, and I quote from the Prime Minister's broadcast:

The program—

That is the program of roads to resources in the north.

—provides for the building of an additional 4,000 miles of road to tap the new resources of the north.

Is that an accurate statement?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I think we can resolve the particular point raised by the Leader of the Opposition by pointing out that the roads to resources program is much more extensive than the statistics I have already given. The roads to resources program also deals with road construction in the northern part of the provinces, and I think he is well aware of that point. The additional mileage figure for roads to resources in the resource rich areas, many of which are in the northern parts of the provinces, comes to a total figure of 4,504 miles. That is in addition to the 2,000-plus miles we have already referred to in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories.