

I do not intend to support the amendment of the Progressive Conservative Party. Unfortunately, I cannot either support the motion of the New Democratic Party because I think that there must be development in this country. We need energy sources and we must develop those that are in existence and we must try to find others.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, in so doing we will upset someone or something, but had we never done anything in the past, we would still be in the Stone Age. I was not around at that time. Early in the century, when it was decided to build a railroad to develop the area where I now live, that is Abitibi, someone was disturbed. There were native people living there at the time. There were also wild animals around. So, someone was disturbed; still, that area was settled, and today it is one of the most beautiful in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, looking back even further, we realize that if the same objections had been made when our country was discovered, Canada would not be what it is today. That proves then that obstacles should not be put in the way of development. If you inconvenience someone, then you find ways of compensating them. A project is now being built in northern Quebec, in the riding I represent, Abitibi: I am talking about the James Bay hydroelectric project. There again, I may not agree completely with the methods used. The native people who lived there were not consulted. The area was invaded, without warning, without concern for the environment. What were the results? To say the least, the Indians and Inuit living there were inconvenienced. We should do the same in north-western Canada, in the Mackenzie Valley or northern Yukon for those who will be disturbed, those who will be in one way or another deprived of their property, of their land. They should be compensated because they are being moved to other areas where they will be able to live and find a new life.

Mr. Speaker, if there is something to develop, if there truly are resources to develop in those areas, I think we should develop them. I have noted in the report a few sections which seem to indicate resentment against our southern neighbours benefitting from this development. For instance, the report says that a major part of the energy resources that will be developed lies in Prudhoe Bay and that this will mainly serve the American states, which seems to bother some people.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that in the early sixties, when we considered the development of the Columbia River in British Columbia, the objections raised were exactly the same. The development of the Columbia River was supposed to help mostly industrial development of the American west. There seems to be some objection to seeing the United States develop their industry. Mr. Speaker, I find this way of thinking somewhat small-minded and I believe that this development would help Canada itself through the routes and railways which will have to be built. This will allow, first exploration, and later development of any natural gas or oil found along the Mackenzie River. The existence of such resources would not be impossible on our own territory.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we should not interfere with this development. Of course, we must be careful. We must take all

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necessary precautions to cause as few problems as possible in the area. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian engineers and technicians who have worked independently from the Berger Commission have also made some studies. The National Energy Board is now interested in this subject and will soon submit a report, at least I hope so. I believe that all these people are able to take the necessary action to minimize damages while allowing as much development as possible.

• (1400)

[English]

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to the motion and as energy critic for the Progressive Conservative party I have to say quite frankly that I have not made up my mind on the issue of the pipeline or on what should be done on behalf of Canada or, indeed, what decision we should come to in the next few months. Unless you are a partisan in favour of one project or the other, or unless you are thinking blindly and come to the conclusion that there should be no more pipeline construction in Canada, no more damage to the environment and no more damage to the ecology, or that we should see no more spread of industrialization, I do not know how you can come to the opposite conclusion either. It is obviously too early for that.

Mr. Speaker, as I say, I have not made up my mind, and our party has not made up its mind yet. We do not intend to make a decision until we have examined the other reports which were referred to by our leader and by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen). When we have had a chance to study these reports we will then make our decision.

I will deal with some of the remarks of the President of the Privy Council first. He has come a long, long way since the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) began some weeks ago to insist that this matter be debated in the House of Commons before the government reaches a decision. We are now in the position, Mr. Speaker, of seeing the government today stating for the first time that before it makes a decision on the question of a pipeline it will permit a debate to take place in the House of Commons in which it will listen to the viewpoints expressed. It will then make a decision. This is what the President of the Privy Council has told us today, and this is something entirely new. He has been brought to his senses—and to his knees—by the Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: And the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Horner) has been brought to his knees also. Berger lives despite Horner. Despite Horner, Berger is alive. Now, Mr. Speaker, we want one further concession from the President of the Privy Council before he leaves office following the next election. We want a committee of this House to be appointed to consider the Berger Report and then later to consider the Lysyk Report, the NEB Report, and the other reports as they become available. We do not want to spend weeks or months