

*Policy Statement on National Resources*

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure the hon. member would not like to create the impression that this represents sins of omission on the part of the federal government. I am quite sure the present government continued quite aggressively what he says he had started.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** This brings me back to the point I made in my introductory remarks to the effect that the problem of resources development on the national level is a federal responsibility. The government of Canada must assume some leadership responsibility. Unhappily, the emphasis has been on the things which divide us rather than those which bring us together. The minister knows what I mean. He mentioned this yesterday in his speech when he said that we have not been able to get a basis of understanding among the provinces. Since he asked me a moment ago about the prairie water development agreement, I can only reply that I am surprised it has taken so long for this government to bring it to a conclusion when we were having such happy and cordial preliminary discussions as far back as 1961 and 1962.

**Mr. Pepin:** What did you do in 1961, 62 and 63?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** We were negotiating and on the point of agreement at that time. I cannot understand why it has taken so long. This is the reason I am critical of the statement the minister made yesterday.

**Mr. Pepin:** The point was not as near as my friend says it was.

• (5:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The minister is going back into the past. He recited statistics concerning what had been done between 1960 and 1963 and so on. We want to know what the government is doing today. You cannot rest on the projects and programs of the past administration. You must seize the initiative and leadership in this field.

I should like to mention one other area of interest if time permits. I have in mind the matter of power development. Here, along with water, gas and oil, is one of the areas in respect of which Canada is rich in resources. Again, discussions were begun in 1962. A conference was held with all the provincial governments and a working committee was established so that we might move as quickly as possible toward the establishment of a national power grid on the basis of high

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

voltage and long distance transmission. What has become of that working committee? This is what we would like to hear about from someone on the government side. Is it working?

**Mr. Pepin:** I answered a written question on this subject a couple of months ago.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The only intertie which has emerged so far is the grid that was established in 1960 in the Atlantic provinces under the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act. This is the only grid system which has been established in Canada. Why has it taken so long to move forward in this area where Canada is abundantly rich in resources? This is what we want to know. We are trying to find out what is going on over there. The government seems to be in a state of somnolence so far as these matters are concerned.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, it is rather late in the day so far as this debate is concerned but there are a few brief comments I should like to make in respect of the matters which have been raised in the amendment now before the house. A number of members who have participated in the debate have mentioned the fact that the amendment is an exceptionally broad one. If one were to give it the fullest possible application it would cover almost every responsibility which comes within the jurisdiction of the federal government. It refers to the various kinds of natural resource development. It even brings up the question of human resource development. Even though there are many matters of real importance mentioned in the amendment, it would seem to me it is a rather general one upon which to vote want of confidence. However, as I have indicated there are a few comments I should like to make in connection with some of the matters which have been raised.

I am sure we all agree that one of the great needs of our country is to have a continuing development of our natural resources. In Canada we are exceptionally blessed with a vast store of natural resources. If we had the opportunity to scan an inventory of our resources I believe it would give most of us a greater appreciation of the great country in which we live and which we look upon as our home. I believe that the proper husbanding of these resources, including their careful