

Supply—Northern Affairs

which considered the estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Then, on July 7 the minister spoke in this house about northern development. He attempted to leave the impression that the former government, and the former minister, had done nothing with regard to the development of the Northwest Territories. As I say, he tried to leave the impression nothing was done until he took over the department or the present government took office last June 23.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hardie: I was going to do this a little later, but since the hon. member says "hear, hear",—no, I do not think I will quote from this pamphlet at the present time. However, I will say to the hon. member that the establishment of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources as approved by parliament in 1953, November, I think it was, under the new minister, the Hon. Jean Lesage, did a great deal about northern development. We heard the present minister quote figures on July 7 when he was trying to leave the impression that the former government did nothing. I should like to quote to him, just to put the record straight, figures illustrating what the former government did from the time the new department of northern affairs was set up in 1953 until the time the former government left office last June.

In 1954-55, the first year after this department was set up, the departmental expenditures were \$22,812,189. In 1955-56—

The Chairman: Order. I must remind the hon. member that resolution No. 266 covers the departmental administration for the year ending March 31, 1959. What was spent during the previous years is, of course, in the record, but it is quite out of order to quote those figures at this time. I must, therefore, respectfully ask the hon. member for Mackenzie River to please concentrate his remarks on the resolution being discussed now.

Mr. Pearson: On this point, surely the chairman must recall that before six o'clock hon. members, as was their right, on the other side and particularly the hon. member for Coast-Capilano, discussed what the previous government had done or had not done and then used some interesting adjectives in referring to our lack of action in previous years. These questions have been regularly discussed on the first item of the estimates. Surely, my hon. friend is not going to be prevented from putting on the record, during the discussion of this first

[Mr. Hardie.]

item covering administration where discussion is to be general, the facts in reply to the statements that have been made that the previous government had done nothing about northern development in recent years. Surely, under the rules he is permitted to do that.

Mr. Hardie: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I feel that all hon. members in the house—

Mr. Walker: You speak for yourself, and not for us.

Mr. Hardie: Oh, here is this legal brain from Toronto speaking. I am not a lawyer, but if you will just take your seat until I am through speaking, then you can speak. I have the floor at the moment. You may be able to bulldoze other people, but you will never bulldoze me.

Mr. Walker: My friend, if you would—

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, who has the floor?

An hon. Member: Sit down.

The Chairman: Order. In answer to the point of order—was it brought up on a point of order?

Mr. Pearson: I was, with respect, commenting on the ruling that you made to the effect that the hon. member could not talk about the record of the government in previous years in northern development.

Mr. Nielsen: There is nothing much to talk about.

Mr. Pearson: There must be or you would let him talk.

The Chairman: It is quite in order to voice one's opinion about what went on in previous years, but it is out of order to actually quote figures and give very precise details about things which happened previously and which actually are all in the record. It could be explained that previous governments did much more about northern affairs than is being claimed, but it is not really admissible at this time to cite figures.

The hon. member for Mackenzie River has the floor, and it would be appreciated by the chair if hon. members permitted him to carry on with his remarks.

Mr. Pickersgill: If the hon. member for Mackenzie River would permit me to interrupt for a moment, I might say that I appeared before the committee of supply in four successive years, and in every case when I appeared—that was before Your Honour was in the house—it was the custom to compare the estimates of one year with those of