

*Natural Resources—Development*

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I rise on a question of privilege. That was made very very clear over and over again. At the top of page 1158 I said:

. . . in so far as northern Canada is concerned, there can be no question whatever that in the territories there has not been a policy of vision . . .

And so on.

There is no question of constitutional division of responsibility between the dominion and the provinces in the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Lesage:** I just said that.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A little later, dealing with development in general, I said:

We believe that the welfare of the Canadian people requires joint investment from time to time for the development of power and other self-liquidating projects in any province where the government of such province requests the co-operation of the Canadian government . . .

All my hon. friend is doing is simply building up a straw man in order to knock it down.

**Mr. Lesage:** I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) has built a straw man and he cannot even destroy it. The truth is that the quotations just made by the Leader of the Opposition have regard to joint investment with the provinces. I have not touched that subject yet. I have reproached the Leader of the Opposition for his suggestion of trying to impose or superimpose a national policy for the development of resources by this parliament. That is what I have reproached him for. I do not say we should not invest with the provinces. We co-operate with the provinces all the time in the domain of resources. We are doing it all the time but it is at the request of the provinces that we do it. We do not initiate because we are not the owners of the resources. It is up to the provinces to initiate.

In Ontario the mineral resources are the property of the province of Ontario and it is up to that province how they are going to be exploited, how they are going to be used, what they are going to do with them.

**Mr. Hodgson:** May I ask the minister a question? Does he mean to say that the provinces have any say with respect to uranium mining operations in Canada

**Mr. Lesage:** I never said that, sir. On the contrary, uranium was first found in the Northwest Territories at Great Bear Lake—

**Mr. Hodgson:** It was first found in Haliburton county in 1930.

**Mr. Lesage:**—and being located in the Northwest Territories it was a resource of the federal government. In Quebec the forest resources are the property of the province

[Mr. Lesage.]

and it is up to the province to manage the forest resources. I do not believe we should try to tell the government of Quebec what it should do with its lumber or pulpwood—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Who else does?

**Mr. Lesage:**—how it should be exploited. The Leader of the Opposition does when he says that what we need is a national policy for the development and use of our resources.

In general, sir, people believe that much has been done in Canada, especially in recent years, to encourage wise resource management. What the Leader of the Opposition asks, what some people ask and, in fact, what the leader of the C.C.F., I believe, asked yesterday, is whether there is any co-ordination in our resource policy or is it done on a hit or miss basis. I believe those are the very words of the leader of the C.C.F. party.

There is no lack of unanimity or clarity as to what the principles and objectives of a resource policy should be but problems arise when you try to lay down a policy. There is substantial unanimity in Canada as to the principles and objectives of good resource management. But what is a policy? The policy is the action, the action of the person or party who owns the resource. It is not merely a question of principle. It is a question of the application of the principles, and in a country like Canada these problems cannot be settled by any master plan as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

Each case of resource management and development has to be considered on its own merits in relation to the particular resource in question, the locality and the particular interests of each party. There is far more frequent discussion between business, the federal government and provincial governments on specific resource management problems than people realize or know. These meetings are not newsworthy most of the time and therefore they get little publicity. However, it is a fact that consultations on co-operative federal-provincial measures usually are specific rather than general in character. They usually relate to a particular resource and to particular action to develop or manage it, or they will even relate to specific problems of one resource in one area.

This specific and limited method of approach does not mean that resource policy in Canada is simply an untidy mass of "ad hockery". In a broad sense there is an underlying agreement on the fundamentals of resource management, that it should make the best possible use of resources in the public interest, that renewable resources should be managed in a way to renew them