

our oil fields has gone the discovery of natural gas. At the present time Canada's reserves of natural gas are estimated at about 20 trillion cubic feet and are increasingly by close to 2 trillion cubic feet annually. These figures may seem small by Texan standards. But it is the rate of growth to which I draw your attention. And I should also remind you that large-scale exploration of our resources of oil and natural gas only began some eight years ago.

Nor have our other energy resources been neglected. In spite of the difficulties it has been experiencing, the coal industry in Canada is still important to our economy. We have also been continuing to exploit our resources of low-cost hydro-electric power on which so much of our economic development has depended. At long last work has begun on the St. Lawrence Power Project. By 1959 the Province of Ontario and the State of New York will be receiving electrical energy from the new plants, which will produce 2.2 million horsepower annually. But when that project has been completed, the last large block of hydro-electric power available to the industrial complex in southern Ontario will have been harnessed. With that fact in mind, plans are being pushed forward for the use of nuclear power. In the establishment at Chalk River near Ottawa we have an accumulation of experience with nuclear reactors that we believe can stand comparison with any in the world. We are also one of the chief suppliers of the free world's uranium. With these human and material resources we are confident that nuclear power will be economically feasible in Canada in the early 1960's. These then form our galaxy of energy resources - oil, natural gas, coal, hydro-electric power and nuclear energy.

How are they to be used? You will not be surprised to learn that, within the limits of economic reason, they are dedicated in the first instance to the use of Canadian consumers and the development of Canadian industries. If you had ever woken in a large draughty house to find the furnace out and the temperature at 10° below zero, you would understand the almost instinctive regard that Canadians have for sources of energy. The house that we in Canada occupy is large and cold and draughty. We know that unless we make good use of the various kinds of power that Canada can provide, we may well find ourselves in a very uncomfortable situation. It is fortunate that, by some working of the law of compensation, we have been given, along with our severe climate, energy resources in abundance.

The policy that Canadians should have first claim on Canadian energy resources - wherever that is economically feasible - is related to a decision taken many years ago that we were a separate nation and intended to remain so. In the age of the railway builders almost a century ago there were those in Canada who criticized the proposition that the various parts of our country should be linked by a trans-continental line. They argued that purely economic considerations dictated less ambitious and difficult plans. Their criticism was rejected because our fathers were convinced that an all-Canadian railroad west to the Pacific was needed as the steel vertebrae to