

Natural Resources—Development

Canada". To that extent we favour this amendment and, of course, shall vote for it when the time comes. But again let me reiterate, if we are to have national development in the interests of all parts of Canada and of all the people of Canada, it has to be planned; it has to be directed consciously in the interests of the people of Canada, and great projects of fundamental importance to the people of Canada will have to be under public control and some under public ownership at the same time. Having said that, I am going to resume my seat.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, the amendment which has been moved by the official Leader of the Opposition is so broad that if we were to take it in its entirety I think it would result in making it impossible for any hon. member to bring up and discuss any other grievance he might have in mind. It is really all-inclusive at it stands.

Mr. Knowles: The whole welfare of Canada.

Mr. Low: Yes; and for that reason I would indicate the part which we would like to discuss, at any rate, and it would be the same as that discussed by the leader of the C.C.F. party. I refer to that part of the amendment which reads:

... the Canadian people requires the adoption now of a national development policy which will develop our natural resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada.

If the Leader of the Opposition would consent to have us concentrate attention on that portion of it, and when the vote comes have it understood that we are voting for that part, I feel that we would have better order in our talk and there would be a much better expression of opinion when we got through.

I am always glad to have these amendments brought in, Mr. Speaker, because they have the effect of concentrating the attention of hon. members on things that are very worth while, and particularly they give us a chance to express ourselves on how we feel with regard to the effect of government policy upon the development of resources.

I want to look at this whole resolution from the point of view of federal government policy, which does have a tremendous effect upon our resources, whether they are developed properly and in the interests of the people or just the reverse. It is because I feel this way that I intend in the time at my disposal this afternoon to deal with six important points of view which we have with respect to national policy. If we are going to have a policy of national development, then in my judgment it would have to consist of these six things at least. I am not thinking for one moment that my list will

[Mr. Coldwell.]

be all-inclusive, but at any rate these are the six items we put forward as a minimum which would have to be included. They are being suggested in the hope that the government will give careful consideration to the development of such a policy, because my judgment tells me that without this type of co-ordination, without this type of national consideration, we can never hope to get the maximum development of our resources and therefore we will always fall somewhat short of our aim to give full employment to our people and a full enjoyment of the products of their labours.

It seems to me that what is needed more than anything else at the present time is more co-ordination of federal government policies in order that one policy will not run counter to another. For example, I am thinking of the government's over-all blanket credit restriction policy. These credit restrictions have had a very detrimental effect upon the development of resources in Canada. When the government imposes over-all blanket credit restrictions without considering the whole field of fiscal and monetary matters, which would include the taxation policy, the investment policy, government spending, construction policy; unless they give careful consideration to the co-ordination of all these things in the best interests of the Canadian people, then one is going to run foul of the others and we will have a nullification of our efforts. That is what we are experiencing today.

We in this group have suggested consistently that the government set up a national financial and economic commission which will have as its purpose the co-ordination of government fiscal, monetary, investment, public works and budgeting policies which will be in the interests of the Canadian people. When you have that sort of commission guiding and advising the government you are going to have a co-ordinated effort, you are going to have well-adjusted efforts toward a maximum of development, without having such things as this blanket restriction policy which is causing such a retardation in the development of our resources.

There is a second important thing you must have, it seems to me, if we are going to experience a worth-while development of our national resources. I think the government of this country has to give consideration to a fairer and more just division of the revenue dollar among the federal, provincial and municipal governments. Most of the development of resources takes place within the provinces under the guidance of provincial governments, because under the constitution property and civil rights are given