

*Government Organization*

one argument and another side contending for a different argument. Then you have a hearing before the supreme court. However, there is no one contending for the federal position. It is a joint submission to the courts. This is where the danger lies. This is one of the reasons for saying that the Prime Minister's statement today was frightening. There was a lack of understanding of the whole basis of the federal system.

We give to the provinces complete power over the energy, minerals and resources of each province. The exceptions of course are that agriculture, in part, is a federal responsibility as are fisheries, in part. In order to keep the argument simple, you can say that resources, energy and minerals are within the powers of the provinces. Now we have a situation where the minister of northern development is the provincial minister for the Northwest Territories and part of the continental shelf. He has been relegated to the power of a provincial minister. In addition you have ten provincial governments. Now, you have the federal government on one side of this issue and eleven governments on the other side; but whom has the federal government put in charge of energy, minerals and resources? Have they put a strong, experienced minister in charge who speaks out in private and in public for the right of the federal government to continue to exist? We get a new minister, and so far a weak minister, who is trying to stand up for the federal power. Read the speeches he makes across the country. Are those speeches dealing with the great issues such as how the mighty, industrial power to the south wants access to our energy in increasing amounts, about 1,000 per cent in ten years. They want access to our minerals because by 1980 they will have a 20 per cent deficiency in strategic metals. They want access to all our resources; and what do we hear in the speeches by the minister? We can read the statements from his office, and we see that he is dealing with such subjects as bilingualism and biculturalism. These are all nice subjects, but when it comes to the guts of the problem, where does Canada go? What is the position of the federal government? We hear no statement from the minister.

When we talk about a national power grid, he is going to look into it. When we talk about the fact that Ontario is moving unilaterally to tie up its power grid with Manitoba, he does not know anything about it. You cannot blame us for being frightened, those

[Mr. Hamilton.]

of us who visualize the maintenance of our national sovereignty, not only from the crushing cultural pressure from the south but from the encroaching financial hold on our resources, energy and secondary industries. I do not believe in acting by negative restrictions. I believe in doing things ourselves, in a system of positive expansionism to match this giant to the south step by step, and then get ahead because we have the resources to do it. One of the keys to give the country bargaining power and to protect the provinces from the encroachment of the United States, since they have no power to deal with the United States, to give us strength and unity when people want to take our resources, energy and minerals in a package deal, would be a strong federal minister. What do we get from the minister? We get a speech about the future of the French-English relationship.

Those things are important, Mr. Speaker. However, I hate to see somebody up on the roof spouting about the relationship of the man and wife in the house below when all the time the furniture is being moved out. It is time the people of Canada, French, English, Dutch, German or any other racial origin, realized that we have all the bargaining power on our side. The high cards are ours. We should use the possibilities that lie in the federal power to give leadership to the provinces to make them realize that, alone, they are like a ship without a rudder, but together they are powerful.

• (7:20 p.m.)

This is why I express my deep concern. The continental shelf is the key to the struggle over the encroaching powers of the provinces upon the federal government, and we have had no indications from the minister that he will be defending the position of the federal government against larcenous hands which reach out to take what belongs to all people of Canada, not just to the people of a single province. This position must be made known.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, the continental shelf north of Hudson bay will come under the jurisdiction of one minister, and that part of it south of that line in Hudson bay will come under the jurisdiction of another minister. In this regard we know where the new minister of northern development stands, because he has stated his position. However, when we look at the islands of the Nastapoka, or the Belcher islands, or Akimiski island, and we realize what these boys are playing with, then this is a very serious