

Natural Resources—Development

would provide that a reasonable share of the expenditures be made for research in Canada it would assure the keeping in Canada of outstanding young men and women for the building up of Canada and would assure as well that our technological advancement would be in keeping with the tremendous resources that our ours.

Second, 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 in keeping with the tremendous potentialities of that area. There is no question of constitutional division of responsibility between the dominion and the provinces in the North West Territories. In that area there are vast resources that should be developed, with the state making possible that development by providing the means and the climate for private industry to develop and expand. I can see this northland of ours with developments envisaged by D'Arcy McGee in his magnificent speech at the time of confederation as he saw that great Canada. I can see cities in northern Canada north of the Arctic circle. There are vast power potentialities in that area. I can see cities developing there as they are developing today in Norway, if only the government would catch the vision of the possibilities.

As we enter this age in which science we believe will dwarf the achievements of the past, the northern storehouse in the territories must be rendered accessible and available. Airway transportation cannot discharge that responsibility. Railways are limited in what they can do. Water transportation is insufficient.

I am one of those who believe in the vision of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and of Sir Robert Borden in 1912; I am one of those who believe that there should be undertaken, in co-operation between the federal government and the provinces, a national highway policy to provide highways for vast developments in the north. The challenge of communism now and in the days ahead demands that our vast northern resources shall be made accessible and available to industry. A proper resources program whereby the federal government would make contributions or assure costs in co-operation with the provinces would be one that would make available and accessible vast areas in the north that still remain undeveloped and will remain so unless action is taken.

In this connection, many hon. members in the last few days have received a resolution that was passed some time ago. I give this as an illustration only because it represents the general summary of the possibilities. It

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

is contained in a brief submitted by the Uranium City chamber of commerce and the Prince Albert chamber of commerce in regard to the vast developments in Uranium City and in northern Saskatchewan, and to the need of action for development. It points out that in the Beaverlodge area on the north shore of lake Athabaska, with its focal centre at Uranium City, is an area that has developed rapidly within the last decade. In 1956 it produced some \$27 million worth of new wealth in the mining of uranium ore. Large-scale expansion programs are now under way. The resolution shows that what is needed is transportation. The water route takes too long and the air route is too costly. It comes up with the suggestion—it is one that I said a moment ago was advanced in this house as far back as 1912:

That we urge the government of Saskatchewan to approach the government of Canada for grants in aid for the construction of such a road and that we request the government of Canada to consider such grants in aid as part of the national program for the development of our natural resources.

I mention that because it is an example of the kind of thing I have in mind. After all, in so far as northern development is concerned, the responsibility within the provinces is left to the provinces but the major beneficiary is always the federal government in the additional taxation which is made possible by reason of the expansion.

We in this party have enunciated certain principles in this regard which we believe are necessary if the development of our country is to equal its possibilities. 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 in carrying out such development. In the case of projects which are not directly self-liquidating we believe that in co-operation with and at the request of a province the federal government should embark upon a bold and aggressive program of the development of natural resources by means of railways, highways and access roads, and also reclamation and conservation schemes, and that these projects will make available to this and future generations the natural wealth of Canada.

Also in connection with power development which is so necessary we believe that Canada's right to the potential hydroelectric power latent in international rivers in Canada should not be parted with under any circumstances, and that the benefits of such hydroelectric power should be preserved for the ultimate use of the people of Canada. These are one or two suggestions in connection with power development which we