

for action by the federal government is increasing on the part of thinking and interested people.

I propose that two courses of action are necessary to meet this problem effectively. First, that the federal government should forge the necessary link in the chain of responsibility by calling a dominion-provincial conference to deal with this question, to deal with the other questions I have mentioned, and to establish nationwide principles of soil, forest and water conservation and management in Canada. Second, the fashioning of common objectives in the application of this principle, such as a land use survey of Canada which would comprise the survey of our wildlife and water resources as a basis for national planning. Such a survey might be of great value in planning future industrial development. We have undertaken surveys such as this in Ceylon and Pakistan under the Colombo plan, and rightly so. Surely we could apply this common-sense approach to the solution of our own problems.

Next I come to development and co-ordination of research. This very important phase of research has been a great deal improved in recent years, but it still lags far behind the research required to make a proper survey of our natural resources possible. Certain research is going on at the present time under federal jurisdiction, particularly with respect to forestry and there is applied research in the province of British Columbia and in some of the other provinces. What is required is the co-ordination of all these activities, because, as indicated in this resolution, we are facing one target. We should have co-ordinated educational programs, and a division of financial responsibility with regard to cost, overall planning to avoid duplication of effort and also the necessary publicity, which is to some extent lacking at the present time and which the former minister of northern affairs and national resources has complained about on a number of occasions. These things are all necessary if we are going to make any definite progress.

My second main proposal is that federal-provincial leadership should be supported by voluntary action in the form of a national conservation league or council. A co-ordination of voluntary effort is as necessary as co-ordination of activities by governments. I believe that government action is much more effective when supported by voluntary action by an informed citizenry. The urge for the wide use of renewable natural resources generated by such a voluntary organization will forge a link between governments and the people. Such a link, as the years go by, will in my opinion, develop into a nationwide, democratic endeavour to repair the

ravages of the past, raise the real living standards of the present and protect the rights of generations unborn. The philosophy of life that springs from a reverence for all creations is the foundation upon which all civilization and cultures are built. Also, in this respect, I think we have a great opportunity if we can get this co-ordination between the work of our government and of voluntary groups in this country—an opportunity for persuading our youth of the wonderful opportunity with which we are now presented in the development of our country.

In conclusion, I will say this: in my opinion federal-provincial co-operation and leadership supported by a nationwide voluntary organization opens up a new vista of human relations, in which the differences between government, regions and communities are forgotten and a new fraternity is inspired by a noble objective—the mobilization of all our human resources behind one purpose, namely the wise use of our renewable natural resources in perpetuity.

I have dealt particularly with the conservation aspect of the resolution moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I would ask hon. members to consider the purpose and spirit in which the resolution is moved. These things are not easy. You must have a target; you must have imagination to reach these objectives, and you must do some planning years ahead. In conclusion, I ask for support of this resolution as a worth-while proposal worthy of the consideration of this house, and for action in the days to come.

**Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West):** Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to have the opportunity of adding a word to this debate. The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) has suggested that possibly the Conservative members of this house—the members of the Progressive Conservative party—lack imagination. Coming as he does from a beautiful part of the country in southern British Columbia, that land of lovely fruit orchards, deep lakes, beautiful mountains—the land or the great Ogopogo, that dream creature several hundreds of feet long which swims along the beautiful Okanagan lake with its head 20 feet above the water—when he talks to us about imagination we know that we are listening to an expert.

We are accused of approaching this resolution with—how was it said?—a shallow attitude. Of course we must be careful in dealing with resolutions of this length and magnitude to make sure we do not get entangled in its meshes. Therefore I am approaching the resolution with some caution,