

*National Economic Development Board*

reasons. It is just coincidental perhaps that the Conservative government came into power in 1957.

**An hon. Member:** And fortunate.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Yes, and fortunate. It was not until sputnik went into orbit that we all acknowledged that we had a crisis in education. Since that time the new administration has been endeavouring to make up for lost time, for the years that the locusts had eaten. We have been advancing the program of technological training through the rapid expansion of technical schools. We have increased aid to education all along the line. I could spend some time in reviewing the inertia of the past. However, what I wish to do is to trace as briefly as possible the steps which have been taken to make up for lost time. I am going to concentrate on my own area of interest, namely the field of national resources and outline what has been done. The program should be clear to all members of the house; but as I have listened to comments and speeches I have come to the conclusion that even though the evidence is available there are a few blind eyes and a few deaf ears in this house, and there are none so blind as those who refuse to see and none so deaf as those who refuse to hear.

Planning has been under way on the part of the government in the resource base field in the areas of both non-renewable and renewable resources, and it is quite appropriate that planning should have begun in this sector of the Canadian economy because this is typical Conservative philosophy. National development has always had a resource base whenever a Conservative administration has been in power. I am free to admit that in this regard northern development has perhaps caught the imagination of the public more than other resource areas, largely because this is a field that was so sadly neglected by previous federal administrations.

I have noticed in recent days that the leader of the Social Credit group, the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), has been telling us that we should launch a vigorous program of northern development. I am happy to assure him that such a program was launched back in the year 1957 and has been moving forward since that time. He points particularly to transportation needs and the possible usefulness of the hovercraft, this new transportation vehicle. Again I am glad to assure him that we shall be having a trial run of a hovercraft early this spring and, if possible, we will arrange to take him along on the first trip. I agree that this vehicle has a tremendous potential so far as the overcoming of the transportation problems of the north is concerned.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

It was inevitable that we had to plan very carefully in the resource field because the resources belong to the provinces. The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources has to work in a very sensitive area in devising national resource development policies. It can only be done by the closest possible co-operation and co-ordination with the provincial governments. I should like to suggest that we have been reasonably successful in this regard.

If I may speak about conferences and co-operation for a moment, I would point out that we called a conference on renewable resources which was held over a year ago in the city of Montreal. We did so because we realized the problems of getting the provinces and the federal government together. This is resource planning of a basic kind, and all the 700 Canadians who took part in that historic resources for tomorrow conference went home feeling that something significant had been accomplished there.

What has emerged in concrete terms from the conference? I am going to mention one example which in terms of planning and in terms of government organization is of fundamental importance. We now have a resource ministers council. This has been announced in the press but apparently it has not sunk deeply into the consciousness of members of the house. This resource ministers council is made up of a representative from each of the provincial governments and representatives from the federal government, all of whom occupy co-equal position on the council. At the present time the council is venturing into a new era of intergovernmental co-operation. It is organizing a secretariat that will be responsible to both the federal authority and the provincial authorities. This secretariat will be completely bilingual.

This is just one development. I could mention others that have emerged from planning in the renewable resource field launched by the government back in 1957 if there were time to do so this afternoon. One of the first matters we had to tackle was the question of the special problems in the different regions of Canada. In the resource area we have given close attention to the problems of the Atlantic provinces as well as those of the prairie region because in those areas economic difficulty in the resource field was most pronounced. This again, I say, is basic Conservative policy because we believe in providing equal opportunities for all parts of Canada and for all groups in Canada.

To mention one example of this kind of planning in the Atlantic provinces area, I would refer to the Atlantic Provinces Power