

*South Saskatchewan River*

be used by any party as an instrument for political preferment. It should have the support of all parties to the end that it will be assured. It will be proceeded with immediately by the Progressive Conservative party when in power. Full consideration has been given to this matter. The leader of this party, having been apprised of the necessities incident to the situation not only in Saskatchewan but also in parts of Alberta and Manitoba, has given his undivided support to the plea that this work be proceeded with at the earliest date that engineering skill and capacity will permit. It should not be delayed four, seven, or ten years, but should be proceeded with now—when this country is apparently entering into a cycle of possible unemployment, and when Saskatchewan is again facing the dangers inherent in drought. Only those who have lived in that province during the trying years of drought can appreciate that this is a work that, if proceeded with now, will give new hope to the people of Saskatchewan and to the people of western Canada as a whole. It will be a national work that will permit the expansion of industrial development, the extension of productivity in the areas affected, and will pay to the nation as a whole profits that can now only be dreamed of.

This is a work which is part and parcel of the platform of the Progressive Conservative party, for we believe in the state providing opportunity for the individual. We believe in the state as a whole making available those facilities which will enable private enterprise to expand, and expand under the incentive of opportunity which will then be available to those who are prepared to work.

The people of the province of Saskatchewan are disappointed, and have reason for that disappointment, in the failure of the government to include this project among those of national importance which find their place in the speech from the throne. Without exception, there is a demand everywhere in the province for this project. Eleven years have gone by since the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) envisaged the necessity for this development.

I digress for a moment to say this. He is the type of member of parliament whom we should emulate, whose contribution is one that should characterize us all—having no geographical limitations. Viewing Canada's development as a whole, he came out eleven years ago in favour of this project. The Progressive Conservative party has consistently advocated this project, not only during but since 1940. In our belief that this work is necessary we are reinforced by conditions that have since been prevalent and which this year threaten our farmers with a disaster

not equalled in ten years. I ask the government not to play with this matter by dabs and dabs of expenditures of two and three million dollars annually, which will mean that the work will not be completed for thirty or forty years. The practicability of this project has been established; its availability has been assured by the investigation made by the engineers; its value has been made clear not only by the South Saskatchewan River Development Association but also by the investigation made by Mr. L. B. Thomson who is in charge of this work in the western provinces; the benefits which will accrue are apparent.

We in this party stand pledged to give support to the government if the legislation is brought in so that this project may be proceeded with, without further delay. We do not believe that this great project should in any way be utilized as a means of giving advantage to any political party. We believe that the work has to be done. The project is necessary in Saskatchewan as well as in parts of Alberta and Manitoba. There is deep resentment over the fact that in the speech from the throne this year this matter has been neglected. It is not even referred to.

**Mr. Gardiner:** It is much more important to have it in the estimates, and it is in there.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is included in the total estimate for the western provinces of—

**Mr. Gardiner:** \$7,500,000 for irrigation, \$2 million of which is for this project.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Golding):** Order. I must remind the hon. member that his time has expired.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** May I finish this sentence? It is in the estimates to the extent of \$7,500,000 for all the western provinces, which means that as for the South Saskatchewan project it is merely the commencement and the laying of the foundations. What we of the prairie provinces demand is not the doing of this work in a way which indicates that it is to be a lifelong project, but that it be proceeded with immediately and completed in accordance with the best energy that the engineers may devote to its completion.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—NOVA SCOTIA COAL  
INDUSTRY

**Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South):** I am not going to pursue the subject which my hon. friend has just dropped. While listening to him I came to the conclusion that he was a bit prejudiced against the government of Saskatchewan. For some reason or other he does not like that government.