

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

of the restrictions of time the conference discussion was restricted to the field of renewable resources with a strong recommendation that there should be a similar conference to consider our non-renewable and exhaustible mineral resources.

I can recall being reminded from time to time by the minister of resources of the province of Quebec, Hon. René Lévesque, as we proceeded to plan the resources for tomorrow conference that the only reason the federal minister was involved at all in the discussions was that Ottawa did have some responsibility for the resources of northern Canada. It is a well known fact that the provinces have jurisdictional control of their own resources up to the 60th parallel in the prairies and up to the Arctic region, of course, in the province of Quebec.

Here again, emerging out of the circumstance of a thorough discussion of Canada's resources, the thought spontaneously emerged that there was a close co-ordination between the functions of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the services provided by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Therefore, so far as the point raised by the hon. member for Port Arthur is concerned, I do not think we need to think in terms of the Department of Industry or other departments, but what we need rather is closer co-ordination at the federal and provincial levels in all branches of government which are involved in the development of our resources.

This is demonstrated by the major breakthrough that occurred at the resources for tomorrow conference resulting in the establishment of the permanent body, the council of resource ministers and the secretariat attached thereto. This is a major breakthrough in intergovernmental co-operation and co-ordination. The success of the resource ministers council, located in the city of Montreal as it is, to get it away from any Ottawa orientation, will be determined by the success that the provincial governments have in co-ordinating resource activities of the various departments at the provincial level, and the leadership given at the federal government level in co-ordinating the functions of the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys whose activities in basic scientific research affect the whole area of resource development.

I should like to suggest that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Re-

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

sources is in a position to assume some of these functions because in the past two or three years it has shed itself of certain functions. For example, until four years ago the Department of Forestry came under northern affairs and national resources. In the past two years the Canadian government travel bureau was moved from national resources to the Department of Trade and Commerce, and more recently responsibility for Canada's museums has been assigned to the Secretary of State's department. Here is a change that has been going on without too much detailed planning. It is something that fits into the whole Glassco concept of government reorganization and co-ordination and I would recommend that the minister give attention to this situation.

Mr. Lloyd: Mr. Chairman, some observations made during the course of the review of the estimates of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys have prompted me to make some remarks on this occasion. First I should like to express unequivocal support of those members from the maritime provinces who consistently assert the need for a continuing active awareness of the needs of the coal mines and fisheries of Nova Scotia. Without equivocation, as I say, I associate myself with those members who would like to see at Ottawa a continuing active awareness of these two great resources of Canada.

You may fiddle and tinker with administrative machinery, but in such tinkering for heaven's sake let us not lose sight of the main objective, which is to provide to enterprising Canadians every possible assistance from the government to discover the way whereby we can make the most extensive use of the God given resources which we have within the boundaries of our great nation. I would think that any move to abolish a ministry such as the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and make it a division of the Department of Industry would just be going in the wrong direction.

I think those who subscribe to the view that the free enterprise system contributes to competition would certainly want to see the government perform the role of providing those entrepreneurs who perhaps do not have the resources of the bigger ones, with the fullest possible advantage of the research the government may be able to undertake. I, for one, have always advocated and will always advocate in this house that if there is any role the government should be performing most extensively and actively it is in the field