

*Natural Resources—Development*

as to how the powers are divided; there is really no basic conflict about that in this country. The provinces know what their jurisdiction is, the federal government know what is theirs, and the municipalities know what is theirs.

There is nothing in the British North America Act which says these three governments cannot get together and participate in joint projects for the benefit of all the people of Canada. I do not believe there is a premier of any province of this country who would not co-operate if he saw the federal government proposing something which was going to be for the benefit of the people of his province as well as the benefit of the people of every province.

This bogy of provincial autonomy can be removed from the whole argument, and then the question boils down to this. Does this parliament believe that it has a public function, that public enterprise has a field in which it shall operate, or does it not; or does it believe it should be left to private enterprise entirely and that we should be simply back seat drivers?

Now, we in the C.C.F. party make it quite clear that we believe there is a wide and important field for public enterprise, and we believe there should be basic economic planning. I sometimes wonder, Mr. Speaker, why this word "planning", particularly when it is associated with the word "economic", should be such a terrible word in the view of some hon. members of this house. I have heard fairly violent reaction to that term "economic planning". Some people say, "Oh, that is interference. That is terrible, and we will have nothing to do with it."

But let us imagine, Mr. Speaker, that this chamber, instead of being the chamber of the House of Commons, was a chamber in which was taking place, let us say, a huge board of directors' meeting of some big company such as Ford of Canada, or Ford of the United States, or General Motors, or General Electric. And imagine the chair the Speaker now occupies was occupied by the president of the company, and he got up at this directors' meeting and said, "Gentlemen, we are gathered here to conduct the affairs of this company, but please—no planning." Can you imagine how long he would last as president of that company? Why, the very basis of the efficient, successful and intelligent operation of any private concern, whether large or small, in this country or elsewhere, has always been careful, meticulous planning. Yet hon. members of this house seem to think that if this government were to launch upon an economic plan for the

benefit of the people of Canada, something would automatically be lost somewhere.

I do not know what they are afraid of, unless they feel that if the planning were done by a public body it would encroach upon some of the monopolistic positions held now by some of the big industries in this country and elsewhere. If that were to be the result I, for one, would not weep any tears over it, because I think this is one of the things that will have to be done eventually, anyway.

We believe in basic economic planning. We believe in planning not only because we want greater development of our resources and industry as such, but because we are entering now, or perhaps have already entered, upon a new era. Not so long ago we used to talk in terms of the industrial revolution. We are now entering the atomic age, in fact we are in it. What are we doing about it? Are we going to sit back and allow the present economic structure, the present industrial structure, to enter into the atomic age and try to build an atomic superstructure on a crumbling economic system, or are we going to do some basic planning, clear away the underbrush first and determine what are the new factors which have entered the economic picture?

Governments will be bound to interest themselves in these things. I found, somewhat to my surprise, in mingling with many of the delegates to the United Nations during the past few weeks and talking to delegates from nations which we ordinarily consider to be backward nations, or underdeveloped nations, that many of these small countries are today starting from a point, industrially speaking, higher than we have reached in Canada. The reason is this. They did not have to clear away the rubble and anachronism of old industrial plant; they started at the atomic age. They do not talk in terms of steel locomotives or even of oil and gas; they talk in terms of atomic energy, today, and these nations are going to make progress.

We in Canada are in a much better position to make this kind of progress because we have the materials and the know-how with which to work. In this sort of atmosphere I cannot conceive that any government or parliament would refuse to give its attention to basic economic planning in order that they might have full knowledge of what was available, what could be done, and which fields of industry could be most intelligently developed.

There will be objections. Some people will say, "That interferes with private enterprise." They may think in terms of the government