

Supply—Northern Affairs

most beautiful beaches I have seen, but nobody can go on them because a handful of people go there for about a week a year for duck shooting and have this island in their control. It is my feeling, and I have repeated this many times, that this island should be made into a national park. There are other national parks in the great lakes district such as Pelee island, Georgian bay, and so on.

These people who have this island under their control have done very well in the matter of conservation for many years. I believe this country should thank them for that. They should be left a number of acres in order to carry on their activities as a way of saying thank you for what they have done. The game on this island is unique on the continent. However, I do not believe these people, who only go there for about a week a year, need a park of about 21,000 acres. This island should be enjoyed by the people in the vicinity. It is needed now, but it was not needed when these people obtained it. These people should be left with 1,000 or 2,000 acres, but let us acquire the rest of it for the use of all our people.

Mr. Roberge: As you know, Mr. Chairman, I have had the opportunity of serving as a member of the mines, waters and forests committee. I was very interested in the work that was done in that committee. I have heard with interest the statements made by the minister as well as by the witnesses who appeared before the committee. At this time I feel it is only just that I commend the work done by the chairman of that committee, the hon. member for Lambton West. He did direct the work of the committee in a very able manner.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, we were reminded this morning by the Leader of the Opposition that the legislation setting up the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was incorporated into our statutes by the Liberal administration headed by the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent. He also reminded us of the fact that the original holder of that portfolio was the former member for Montmagny-L'Islet, the Hon. Mr. Lesage, whose departure was a matter of general regret in this house. Incidentally, I congratulate him on the sound administration he gave the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and wish him, in his new capacity, every possible success. I hope he may even become the next premier of Quebec.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard a great deal of late about vision. We had heard about it too during the election campaign. I do not think I would be far wrong in stating that

the Prime Minister and the members of the government have established a very close relationship between that vision and the public works program of \$1,185 million announced by the government.

We are convinced that that public works program in northern Canada cannot solve unemployment, although it was in that particular sense that it was put before the people of this country. Of course, this is not saying that we, on this side of the house, are opposed to northern development, or to the exploration and possible future development of our natural resources, but I do want to emphasize that the government made much of this vision when they described it to the Canadian people during the election campaign.

If the Prime Minister and his colleagues want to keep on saying that they had a vision, that is their privilege. On this side of the house, though, we can say that the former government and particularly its Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources had been both wise and realistic in providing for such steps as appeared necessary for the future development of Northern Canada and in making preparations in that regard. I searched the records of this house on the matter, Mr. Chairman, and I also made a detailed study of the various publications printed for the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, as well as the briefs submitted to the Gordon commission on economic prospects.

In the record of the 1953-54 session, I found some sentences spoken by the then prime minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, when he introduced in this house the bill creating that department. This is what he said, according to page 697:

One subject to which such increased emphasis will be given by the passage of this bill is the administration and development of our northern territories.

And he added in the same speech:

Now, it seemed to us that it was becoming increasingly apparent that it would be desirable to alter the situation and to create conditions in which it is clearly indicated that the government and parliament want further attention given to the development of our north country, and I may say that that was further impressed upon us by the fact that there have to be quite a number of non-Canadians going into that territory. We felt that it was very important to have the situation such that, whenever they went there, they realized they were in Canadian territory and in territory that was administered by Canadian authorities.

The present bill is designed to give more emphasis to the fact that the people of Canada are greatly interested in this northern territory and regard it as an important part of the territory subject to the sovereignty of the Canadian nation.