

*The Address—Mr. Nickerson*

friends from the south, that took possession and developed the vacant prairies.

This having been done, it was then necessary to turn our eyes northward. However, it was not until that equally great Canadian statesman, the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker, gave us his vision of the north, that Canadians as a whole began to realize that the destiny of this country lies in the effective use and occupation of Canada north of that narrow belt along the United States border.

Unfortunately the vision was transitory and became blurred when new governments took office, governments with a concept of Canada restricted to the limited geographical areas of central Quebec and Ontario from which they drew their political support. With a new and progressive government in office, we can look forward to a resurrection of the Diefenbaker vision, and we in the north, who have so much to offer, can look forward to playing our full role within the Canadian confederation.

His Excellency the Governor General in his throne speech outlined the two main fields in which progress has to be made in the northern territories. They are, of course, industrial and resource development on one hand, and constitutional development on the other.

There is no sound reason why prosperity should stop at the 60th parallel. The distribution of resources does not respect political boundaries. Resources extend on both sides of the border. There is no sound underlying economic reason why Alberta enjoys the highest standard of prosperity in this country whereas a few yards over the border the state of the economy is one of neglect and stagnation.

It is necessary that the Government of Canada help in the development of resources in the Northwest Territories, resources which it holds in trust for eventual Canadian provinces to be established in the north.

The throne speech refers specifically to the minerals industry. If you let us develop our oil fields and our gas fields, if you let us develop our uranium mines, if you let us harness our extensive hydro-electric resources, we can help Canada achieve its goal of energy self-sufficiency. If you allow us to develop our deposits of base and precious metals, our fishing industry and our fur industry, by exporting these products we can help Canada balance its books and reduce its international balance of payment deficit, and help restore international confidence in the Canadian currency.

If you allow us to develop our agriculture, our forests and our tourist industry, we will generate our own sources of revenue and become less dependent on the largesse of the southern Canadian taxpayer. All we want is the opportunity to do these things, and to be treated fairly and honestly in the same way as Canadians living in the southern provinces.

For these great things to happen, Canada must be prepared to invest in the provision of the necessary infrastructure. Roads have to be built, harbours and airports constructed, electric power made available at reasonable costs. What is probably more important is that present disincentives to investment in the north have to be removed. Our taxation policies and regulatory environment should be both certain, free from

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arbitrary measures, and designed to encourage northern investment by Canadians. Our system of land tenure must ensure security of title, and our transportation policies must be designed so that products shipped both from and into the north can reach their destinations without being priced out of the marketplace.

In the very few minutes left I will turn to the subject of responsible government and the fact that northern Canadians to this very day are denied the full rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship. Is it conceivable that in the last quarter of the twentieth century Canada still governs part of its own country in this semi-colonial fashion?

Because we have to finish in about 60 seconds, I will dispense with the other things I had to say on the very important subject of constitutional development in the north. I would like to end by saying this. In the Northwest Territories the paternalistic socialism of the previous government has failed, and failed miserably. I am proud to stand here today as part of a new government, one unencumbered by the mistakes of the past, a government devoted to the active development of the Canadian north, a government that holds dear the principles of individual liberty and of private ownership, and most of all a government that recognizes the right of all Canadians, whether they live in the south or the north, to be masters of their own fate and controllers of their own political destiny.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** It being five o'clock, it is my duty, pursuant to an agreement reached earlier this day, to interrupt these proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Fretz) agreed to.

● (1700)

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue)** moved:

That the Address be engrossed and presented to His Excellency the Governor General by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Turner:** Would the government House leader tell us the business for Monday?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The first piece of legislation by the new government is the bill standing in the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to correct an inequity in old age security legislation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** Order. It being after five o'clock p.m. this House stands adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5.03 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.