

Standing Committee on  
Indian Affairs and Northern Development

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*Rodriguez*

*NDP*

*March 14/79*

*A. Doyle*

ADDRESS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT - MARCH 15, 1979

1. I WISH TO THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF APPEARING BEFORE YOU.
2. THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE ARE HERE TO BRIEF YOU ON OUR ACTIVITIES AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY WISH TO ADDRESS TO US.
3. THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMITTEE GOES BACK TO LAST NOVEMBER WHEN, ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE FOUR CHAMBERS OF MINES, FROM THE YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, B.C. AND ALBERTA, THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO ADVISE THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT ON POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR MINING IN THE NORTH. THE MINISTER RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THIS INITIATIVE OF THE FOUR CHAMBERS AND WENT A STEP FURTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHO WOULD BECOME A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF AS HIS SPECIAL ADVISOR ON MINING.
4. WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT MR. BILL IRVINE ACCEPTED THIS JOB. AT THE TIME, THE MINISTER ALSO AGREED THAT NO ACTION ADVERSE TO THE MINING INDUSTRY WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY HIS DEPARTMENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY. THIS WE CONSIDER TO BE A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS ONLY THIS KIND OF APPROACH THAT WILL RE-ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY TRUST BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY, THE LACK OF WHICH HAS BEEN <sup>EVIDENT</sup> SO ~~OBVIOUS~~ OVER THE PAST YEARS.
5. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 15 MEMEERS, REPRESENTING BOTH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT. THE SEVEN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE FOUR WESTERN CHAMBERS OF MINES, AND THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA. OF THE EIGHT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, FIVE ARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, ONE IS FROM ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES,

AND TWO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE YUKON TERRITORY AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, RESPECTIVELY. LET ME AT THIS TIME ASK EACH MEMBER OF OUR COMMITTEE TO STAND UP AND TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF.

6. THE COMMITTEE MEETS GENERALLY ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND HAS MET ON FIVE OCCASIONS TO DATE, IN MEETINGS TAKING PLACE IN WHITEHORSE, OTTAWA, EDMONTON AND VANCOUVER. IN VANCOUVER, ON JANUARY 19TH OF THIS YEAR, THE COMMITTEE MET WITH MR. FAULKNER AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY. THE COMMITTEE IS NOW ADDRESSING ITSELF TO DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS OF STRATEGY BY WHICH THESE POLICIES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.
7. THE WORK IN COMMITTEE IS AUGMENTED BY SUB-COMMITTEES THAT DEAL IN MORE DETAIL WITH CERTAIN IMPORTANT MATTERS AND REPORT BACK TO THE MAIN COMMITTEE. SUB-COMMITTEES ON LAND USE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS, AND FISCAL MATTERS, HAVE BEEN FORMED, AND THESE SUB-COMMITTEES HAVE INVITED OUTSIDE EXPERTS FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO ADVISE THEM.
8. THE COMMITTEE IS AIMING TO HAVE ITS FINAL REPORT READY FOR THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION BY THE END OF APRIL OF THIS YEAR. AMONG THE RECOMMENDATIONS LIKELY TO BE MADE, WILL BE THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT CONTINUE THROUGH THIS COMMITTEE, OR ONE LIKE IT, MEETING AT LESS FREQUENT INTERVALS.
9. TO DATE THE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED A STATEMENT OF POLICY TO THE MINISTER WHICH, IN ESSENCE, RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT, RECOGNIZING THE FUNDAMENTAL AND MAJOR ROLE OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE NORTH, WILL FOSTER, PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE MINING ACTIVITIES IN THE YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. IN ESSENCE, THE COMMITTEE IS ASKING THAT THE PRIORITIES WHICH GUIDED THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 70'S BE RE-EXAMINED AND THAT THE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH BE GIVEN THE PRIORITY EQUAL TO THAT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AND OF THE ~~MINE~~<sup>LAND</sup> CLAIM SETTLEMENTS. THE POLICY STATEMENT WAS ARRIVED AT THROUGH A UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND WE MUST SAY THAT THE FACT THAT IN ALL OF OUR DELIBERATIONS, WE HAVE REACHED ALL OF OUR DECISIONS BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT AND WITHOUT THE NEED TO CONDUCT A VOTE AMONGST THE MEMBERS IS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMITTEE INsofar AS IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS COMMON GOALS.

10. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE MINING INDUSTRY IS INDIGENOUS TO THE NORTH. IT IS AS AT HOME IN THE NORTH AS IS HUNTING AND TRAPPING. ASIDE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER. IT IS, THEREFORE, INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THIS NATURAL ROLE OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH AND FOSTER ITS DEVELOPMENT.
11. WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT FOR YOUR COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE THAT IF THE MINING INDUSTRY IS TO FULFILL ITS ROLE, IT MUST BE FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NORTH WHICH INCLUDE THE TWO TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS SUPPORT MUST BE IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE, THAT IS, TRANSPORTATION, POWER AND FISCAL POLICY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTRA COST AND DIFFICULTIES OF OPERATING IN THE NORTH AS OPPOSED TO OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.
12. WE ARE AT A POINT WHEN THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE CAN NO LONGER MEET THE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE INDUSTRY AND IN SOME INSTANCES IT IS DEFICIENT EVEN FOR ITS PRESENT NEEDS. THE TRANSPORTATION AND POWER REQUIREMENTS OF THE NORTH ARE SUCH THAT THE NEW FACILITIES MUST NOW BE PLANNED.
13. THE MINING INDUSTRY IS AS MUCH A PART OF CANADIAN LIFE AS IS FARMING, FISHING AND FOREST INDUSTRIES. ALL THOSE INDUSTRIES ARE INDIGENOUS TO CANADA AND THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS CAN ACCRUE TO CANADA WITH THE RIGHT GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR EACH ONE OF THOSE INDUSTRIES. AS FAR AS THE MINING INDUSTRY

IS CONCERNED, TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT IT COULD AND SHOULD COMBINE TO MAKE THE INDUSTRY EXPAND AND PROFITABLE. THIS WOULD GENERATE JOBS, TAXATION REVENUE AND THE BASE FOR BUILDING UP, SUPPORTING, PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN CANADA. THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IS SUBSTANTIAL IF THE INDUSTRY IS ALLOWED TO FULFILL ITS POTENTIAL.

14. FOLLOWING THE LAST WORLD WAR, THE THEN CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED AS A POLICY THAT CANADIANS COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE THEN EXISTING SHORTAGES FOR METALS AND PROVIDED INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MINES. BY REASON OF THOSE INCENTIVES, WE HAD WITNESSED AN UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY. THE LIKE OPPORTUNITY MAY NOW BE IN THE OFFING. DURING THE LAST FIVE MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR METALS. IF THIS SHOULD CONTINUE, AND THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL, WE ARE ONCE AGAIN PRESENTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF SUPPLYING METALS FOR THE WORLD MARKETS AND THE ONLY THING THAT IS NEEDED IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THIS A PRIORITY AS IT HAD DONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LAST WAR AND THE INDUSTRY WILL CERTAINLY RESPOND.
15. WE HOPE THAT THE WORK OF OUR COMMITTEE WILL GENERATE INTEREST AMONGST YOU AS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND OF YOUR COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO GIVE THE PRIORITY AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH AND ALSO THROUGHOUT CANADA.
16. IN CONCLUSION, WE HAVE CHOSEN YOUR COMMITTEE AS OUR FORUM TO MAKE PUBLIC OUR STATEMENT OF POLICY AS RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTER BECAUSE IT IS YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT WHO WILL BE DELIBERATING AND DECIDING ON THOSE ISSUES. OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILL SEE TO IT THAT EACH MEMBER OF YOUR COMMITTEE RECEIVES A COPY OF THE STATEMENT OF POLICY AS DELIVERED TO THE MINISTER.

THANK YOU.