

*Mid Canada
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THE MID-CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR
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(An address delivered to the North Western Ontario Development Council, Port Arthur, Nov. 26, 1968)

Stretching across this country from Newfoundland to northern British Columbia lies the corridor to Canada's future. In a great arc spreading in a broad band east and west from Hudson Bay lie the vast potential of natural resources of this country. Although some attempt is being made to develop these resources, the attempt is less than this country deserves. It is still, in most cases, a reap and run policy which governs the development of northern Canada. What is required is some form of integrated scheme which will tie the efficient development of Northern Canada into one vast network of accomplishment. Such a scheme is the

MID-CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

The original concept of such a corridor began in the mind of Richard Rohmer, a Toronto lawyer. Mr. Rohmer has had considerable experience in land use and land planning, and in transportation. Beginning with the basic idea of a second east-west railroad to link existing spur lines from the south, the scheme soon became compounded with a consideration of a link between new towns and cities, the idea of northern manufacturing centres, secondary linkages such as highways and pipelines. Important in this

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scheme ~~is~~ the idea of permanent urbanization of the mid-north.

Mr. Rohmer enlisted the help of Acres Research and Planning Limited. Research by this company produced in July, 1967 a Study book, a publication which has already run into its third printing. It is by far one of the best graphic inventories of Canada's potential. Out of this research, by a process of sieving, that is by laying one set of conditions (weather, resources, etc.) over another, and by selecting from the residue a reasonably acceptable area in which people might live, the Corridor emerged. The corridor is a strip of land in the boreal forest from Labrador and Newfoundland, curving southward through Quebec and Ontario and then north westward across the prairie provinces, ^{with a side branch to Churchill} to northwestern Alberta; at this point the corridor splits into three, one branch extending north up the MacKenzie river, one branch west through the southern Yukon, and a third through northern British Columbia to the Pacific coast.

Acres commissioned Kennedy Horizons Limited, Gerard Kennedy and his wife, T.V. personality, Betty Kennedy, to produce a film about this country. No words can describe what this film shows you. Ladies and gentlemen, I present the film

LEAVE IT NOT TO GAIN

We must not leave this magnificent land to Cain. Fortunately, we as Canadians have no reason *why we should leave* ~~to leave~~ this country to Cain. We have the competence and the capability in Canada to develop the Mid-north as a place of sustained development which will be attractive to the 100 million people that represent the increase in our population during the next 100 years. Perhaps this scheme is the plan that we need.

I say "perhaps" because as yet the scheme is untested. What we must do is to subject this scheme to careful scrutiny. For this purpose a foundation has been formed with Lakehead University, the University of Guelph, and Laurentian University acting as the founding sponsors. *to you me* Invitations have been sent to the Universities of Montreal, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as Memorial University and Memorial University of Newfoundland. *be as known to Prof. as Patrice The Honorable*
Lester B Pearson at Hurley Park

The Mid-Canada Development Corridor Foundation has as its objectives;

1. To examine the practicability of a continuing long-range economic development and land use plan for urbanization, industrialization, and general development of Mid-Canada; and to this end to use the concept of the Mid-Canada Development Corridor as a focal point.

2. And if such a long-range- ~~economic~~ plan

is found to be both feasible and practicable, then to formulate recommendations and suggest courses of action to be delivered to federal and provincial governments, to financial, ~~and~~ commercial, and industrial sectors of the national community and to the Canadian universities.

The investigation of the scheme will be in three parts. On August 20 to 22, 1969 there will be an initial conference at Lakehead University to introduce and outline the ~~xx~~ problems which face us in the development of ^{Canada and North} ~~this part of the country~~. The broad areas to be discussed are

Environment

Resources

Constitutional and Jurisdictional matters

Technology

Transportation and Communication

Financing

Human and Economic Factors.

The key papers in each section will be prepared and given by eminent Canadians, specialists in their fields. Duff Roblin, of Canadian Pacific ^{Investment} ~~Industries~~ Limited will present problems related to Human and Economic Factors. Dr. O.M. Solandt, ^{Chancellor of the U. of T.} will deal with Technology

Following this initial session the invited members will be divided into seven groups, ^{one} to consider each of the topics. Each group will be lead by knowledgeable

people familiar with the north and its problems. For the three months following this conference these groups will travel on field trips into various parts of the north to gain first hand information on the topic which they are considering. It is planned that about 1/3 of the total membership will also visit areas in Scandinavia and Russia where similar problems exist, and where some solutions have been found.

Following the field trips, sometime in the early part of the new year, a final conference will be held ^{at some centre outside of Ontario, possibly in western Canada} at which reports will be presented by the several groups. These will be discussed. From the reports ^{and} ~~and~~ discussion will be produced a final working paper containing the recommendations advanced by the members.

This will all take a great deal of money but it will be money well spent if some final plan, — and it may not be the Mid-Canada Corridor Scheme, — can be evolved which will point the way to a fruitful development of ^{Canada mid-north} ~~Mid-Canada~~. The money for these conferences is coming from the Federal and Provincial governments in part, and also, in large part from Canadian owned industry.

Although the need for foreign capital to develop Canada is great, ~~the need for~~ the planning of this development must be by Canadians. This is why we are asking only Canadian industry to share in this exciting exploration of our ^{country} ~~north~~.

It is gratifying to know that Canadian industry has risen to the challenge and is contributing handsomely to this national enterprise. Already some industries have contributed monies into the Foundation. The enthusiasm for the project has been more than we expected. Mr. Morgan has had the privilege of meeting with some of the Captains of Canadian industry to introduce the idea to them. I think he will ~~xxxxxxx~~ assure you of what I am saying.

Membership in the conference will consist of
50 Governemtn *representation*
75 ~~xxxxxxx~~ Industry *Captains*
25 University *representation*

This number of seats is a minimum and may be added to as we proceed. These will be the participating members. There undoubtedly will be some arrangement for listening participation ^{at} in both of the conferences.

If a positive ^{practical scheme} ~~plan~~ - whatever its form -- emerges from these ~~conferences~~ sessions, the conference must convince the ^{member} governments that the ~~plan~~ ^{recommendation} should be ^{welded together into a master plan} ~~enacted at the earliest possible time~~. It is possible that ^{such} a master plan could take at least five years in the preparation and might cost between five and ten million dollars. If it is to be prepared, then it must be done as a full and equal partnership between Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments with a full and meaningful involve-

ment of Canada's universities and business community.

At different times ~~in the past~~ in the history of this country, some magnificent scheme has transcended petty regional differences, has lifted us from the fear of foreign domination, has bound us together as a nation. To me, we are at a time in our history when some transcending purpose must grip us or we ^{may well} ~~will~~ disintegrate as a nation. I believe that the ~~far-reaching~~ development of Mid-Canada North is just such a scheme. Mid-Canada North is destined to play an ever increasing role in this country's growth to a self-sustaining nation. Let us *— all of us —*

Leave It Not To Cain