

Government Organization

view to delineate the federal and provincial jurisdictions, but I suggest that he should confine his remarks to the department of Indian affairs and northern development for the moment.

Mr. Caouette: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker; I really think I must be hard-headed, as they say.

I shall return to the department of manpower, because I sincerely believe this involves constitutional matters, and because the duties, powers and functions of the minister mentioned in section 13 conflict with the same powers given to the provincial legislatures.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I believe we can discuss the practicability of this clause which states the duties, powers and functions of the department of manpower concerning:

—the development and utilization of manpower in Canada, employment services; and immigration, since all these subjects concern the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I think that from the constitutional point of view, it is about time Ottawa should withdraw from the fields coming under provincial jurisdiction. This was done too often in the past, and it is about to happen again in the future. The province of Quebec, Mr. Speaker, will no longer accept dictates from Ottawa; however, I am sure it will co-operate with Ottawa 100 per cent on matters of general and national interest. Only, there is a right way to act, discuss or negotiate with Quebec just like there is a way to discuss with the other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the province of Quebec is ready for discussion, even if some of elements are prepared to discuss with no one except themselves, being people who have a high opinion of themselves and none at all about others.

Now, to continue the list of heads of new departments, we have also the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Here again, as I mentioned earlier—the new minister will be responsible for:

Eskimo affairs; national parks; national battlefields, historic sites and monuments; and migratory birds and other wild life.

The duties are provided in clause 18 as follows:

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development shall be responsible for

(a) co-ordinating the activities in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory of the several departments, branches and agencies of the Government of Canada;

[Mr. Speaker.]

(b) undertaking, promoting and recommending policies and programs for the further economic and political development of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory; and

(c) fostering, through scientific investigation and technology, knowledge of the Canadian north and of the means of dealing with conditions related to its further development.

As far as my area is concerned, we do not object to the federal government taking the necessary steps so as to authorize the new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to help as much as possible those coming from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, but we are concerned about Indian affairs and Eskimo affairs. Eskimos are living in the vicinity of Hudson Bay, in northern Quebec in Ungava. The former Quebec Minister of National Resources stated many times that Eskimo affairs came under Quebec jurisdiction.

Now, the matter has not yet been settled, but it will probably be when a federal-provincial conference is called and several ministers, especially the provincial ministers of natural resources and the minister of Indian affairs and northern development come together. We feel that the federal authorities will then agree that provincial jurisdiction must be respected. The government should act as co-ordinator, as liaison officer among the various Canadian provinces, and induce all Canadians to agree on a policy which will enable the provinces to treat their Eskimos and Indians decently, in accordance with the ways and customs of the provinces concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing else to say about Bill C-178 which, in fact, as stated by the Prime Minister, will not establish new departments, nor increase the number of ministers, but will merely change the titles of the ministers and give them somewhat different responsibilities from those they had up to now.

We are interested in all departments, in general, but more especially in the new department of manpower. We will keep close watch and we are willing to co-operate with it at all times, even during an election campaign, because the department is independent of the minister.

Mr. Speaker, we are ready to support the department of manpower in every possible way, so that it will be efficient and will co-operate with our provincial department while respecting provincial prerogatives and rights. That is where Ottawa can render its best services to the Canadian people as a