

Supply—Indian Affairs

a result of taking a one or two-year course in the principles of conservation. They would then be in a position to work as conservation officers in the federal or provincial departments or in related services. I am not suggesting something that would cost a lot of money, but I am suggesting that a suitable site should be found surrounded by timber and wildlife. Possibly the buildings could be made of logs and the college could accommodate roughly 50 students. This would only require a small supervisory staff of three or four with visiting lecturers from other universities.

I am so interested in this subject, Mr. Chairman, that I have talked it up and down the country in which I live. I would be willing to offer the federal department a very nice site adjacent to one of the most beautiful lakes in British Columbia. I refer to Beaver Lake in the little Slovan valley. With those few words I will take my seat. I look forward to the minister's reply to the various suggestions I have made.

Mr. Orange: Mr. Chairman, I should like to add my comments to the very interesting discussion which has taken place this afternoon on the estimates of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The majority of my remarks will be slanted toward my own particular interests, and I refer to the northern part of Canada.

Those of us who live in the Northwest Territories are very grateful for the leadership given to this department by the present minister. Believe me, I am not prone to compliment him at all times in respect of his department, but he has through his energy and imagination adopted the ideas and thoughts of his officers and brought into being such plans as the Eskimo housing program. This program will bring to our Eskimo people adequate and decent housing. It is not a new program and some of the credit must go to the previous government for initiating the first stages of it. The department is now bringing housing to Eskimo people wherever they live in northern Canada. These houses will be designed to fit family needs and the Eskimo people will pay according to their ability. They will no longer be required to purchase houses. Every Eskimo individual will be in a position to obtain decent shelter. I understand this program will take approximately three years to complete. While we are not dealing with the Indian affairs section of the estimates, I should like to say that our Indian population will be in much the same position as the result of another housing program.

[Mr. Herridge.]

The minister has reactivated or brought about a new roads policy. It is my understanding that during this past summer approximately \$8 million to \$10 million was spent on the construction of new roads in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Even more important in terms of developing our resources, we have a new northern mineral development fund which will provide an incentive to various companies interested in exploration and mining development in the north. This fund will encourage these companies to search for riches there.

We also have had an advisory commission on the development of government in northern Canada, perhaps better known as the Carrothers commission. In 1963 a proposal was made to divide the Northwest Territories into two separate territories. It was apparent at that time that the plan had not been thoroughly discussed with the people living in the north or those people who have a particular interest in northern Canada. The results of that committee's meetings are well known to all in this house. The present minister was determined that the people of the Northwest Territories should have an opportunity of expressing their views and he set up this advisory commission. We now have received that commission's report.

Before referring to that report I should like to state that the present commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. B. G. Sivertz, has indicated he will retire within the next few weeks. I have been fortunate in having known Mr. Sivertz for 11 years, and particularly well in the past three years during which time he served in this capacity in a way which has been appreciated by all. We will miss Mr. Sivertz and the work he has done in the Northwest Territories, and I know I speak on behalf of all northerners when I say that we hope he will be able to visit us from time to time.

• (4:40 p.m.)

When the minister appoints the successor to Mr. Sivertz we are hopeful that the recommendation of the Carrothers commission will be adopted. I refer to the recommendation that the commissioner live in the Northwest Territories. At the present time the commissioner's residence is in Ottawa. The Carrothers commission recommended that the commissioner and his staff be moved to the Northwest Territories. I urge the minister to give us this assurance when replying to these remarks.