

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

• (2:30 p.m.)

The recommendations with regard to the Commissioner and deputy Commissioner have been carried out. With regard to the suggestions of the Carrothers Commission concerning the legislative assembly, again I cannot understand why there is so much reluctance to changing the name "council" to "assembly". I may be missing the point, but it seems to me that it could have been handled in about 30 seconds time. We have extended the life of the council to four years and we have given the members of the council the right to set their indemnity. The transfer of public lands in and around municipalities is in effect. As suggested, a lands title office was established in Yellowknife in 1967.

With regard to the administration, the heart, the guts of a proper government structure, Carrothers said:

We recommend that administrative functions be transferred to the territorial civil service on a specified schedule as soon as practicable.

He said this in 1966, and on April 1 of 1970 all of the former federal civil servants of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will have been transferred, both in the Mackenzie district and in the eastern Arctic, and all the people who were formerly federal civil servants carrying out provincial type activities for the federal government will become territorial employees.

I must take issue at this time with a remark made by the hon. member for Yukon when he suggested that all we were really doing was to impose another level of bureaucracy by transferring from Ottawa to Yellowknife all the administration that was carried out here. He seemed to think that this would not work. I say that in order to carry out the functions of government, and to do the things that people want, one has to have a public service. Not only that, but the public service, as it has been developed and is being developed in the north, is going out to the private sector in the south and in the north. I suggest that of the former incumbents of positions who carried out territorial functions very few knew the north, and fortunately they are the ones who did not want to move north, who have stayed in Ottawa and are doing something else now.

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask the hon. member a question? I agree completely with what the hon. member said, but does he not agree with me that the real question is: who is to control that civil service, whether or not the Commis-

sioner under the direction of the minister is to continue to control it or will it be the elected representatives of the people?

Mr. Orange: I am sure that the hon. member has been at Territorial Council meetings in both the territories and is well aware of the way in which the Territorial Council can control the public service through the finance committee, in the Yukon, the standing committee or, hopefully the executive council which we will have in the territories in the years to come.

Mr. Nielsen: Surely, the hon. member does not want to leave the impression there is a scintilla of control over the civil service in the Northwest Territories. There is not in the Yukon.

Mr. Orange: Is there any by this parliament of the federal civil service?

Carrothers made a number of recommendations regarding economic development and finance within the territorial government, and these have been implemented.

A Northwest Territories development board composed of representatives of the federal and territorial governments and Economic Council of Canada has not been created because, as I understand it, the Economic Council decided they did not want to be involved in regional development. However, the federal and territorial administrations are working closely together and in consultation with each other.

The Small Businesses Loans Act which should be in effect very shortly will be implemented under a combined federal and territorial jurisdiction, with the responsibility resting on the territorial government. Credit committees are to be established among private citizens from the north.

There is a recommendation that a department of local government be established in order to allow communities to participate more fully in the activities that affect their lives. Carrothers recommended that there be a department of public works, a department of welfare and social services, law enforcement and a judicial system. The Commission recommended that there be a department of justice, and that territorial magistrates and other judicial officers whose jurisdiction is equivalent to that of judicial officers appointed in the provinces by provincial authority be appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. This week the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) released his recommen-