

Supply—Northern Affairs

May I again ask the minister for his very sympathetic attention to this problem of help for Eskimos in Labrador and an increase in the amount of assistance given to them through the provincial government.

I make this plea because their needs are great. In fact the needs of Eskimos and Indians throughout the north are great. They require additional educational facilities, and so on. I am sure all these things engage the sympathetic attention of the minister and I invite him to take on active interest in this matter.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister a question in relation to the switch in the northern affairs bulletin "North". I would ask the minister why it is now a bigger and a slicker magazine.

I want to ask him also whether he can give us some idea of the cost of this magazine and its circulation. Why do we have something this glossy? I was going to use the word "slick", but I think "cute" would be better. Why is it necessary?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the magazine "North", as the hon. member knows, because I believe he is in regular receipt of a copy, there is a subscription charge of some \$3 per year. The subscription cost has not been changed, I understand, as between the present format of the magazine and the former format. This is because actually there is very little increase in cost as between the two formats.

As I recall, the paid circulation is 2,000. In addition certain copies are supplied to hon. members of the house and officers of the department. The total production cost is \$5,000.

Mr. Fisher: I should like to suggest that it would be nice for me to see in it—and perhaps other hon. members would agree—an article written by someone other than a senior civil servant or a minister of the crown. I suggest that the hon. member for Mackenzie River—while I have seen mentions of him—might be a worth-while contributor comparable with the minister, especially since he has an interest in the area.

I wish to ask the minister another question. It relates to an article that appeared last year in the *Ottawa Journal*. This was a report by the Canadian Press from Montreal about the remarks of a Dr. Maxwell Dunbar of McGill University, an expert on northern living. This is the quotation from the Canadian Press report:

Far from being the dedicated, happy band of pioneers they are popularly pictured. Dr. Dunbar said Tuesday, most northern communities are "unhappy, torn by petty jealousy, boredom and over-developed egos".

They are this way, he told a meeting of the national federation of financial analysts societies, because companies interested in northern development don't hire the right sort of people.

He suggested they stop "trying to attract anyone at all to live for 18 months in an air-conditioned barracks at 80 degrees fahrenheit by means of high pay and airborne steaks".

These lures, he said, have attracted men "with movie and corner drugstore minds".

Dr. Dunbar said suitable men could be attracted by the "high moral standard" which used to characterize northern living; quiet, modest people with senses of humour, cynical rather than over-optimistic and without illusions about their strengths and weaknesses.

This is the most pungent criticism of the social situation in the north that I have seen. I tried to get the full text of the remarks and did not come up with it, but I heard several other speakers on C.B.C. programs last year indicate something of the same.

I have no idea whether there is any substance in these remarks, but is there a social situation in the north such as Dr. Dunbar sets out? If so, how is it being met by the department and what aspect of it is the government's responsibility?

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few brief remarks before the minister answers this question. I have not read the article that the hon. member for Port Arthur has quoted from, but I want to be immediate, quick and decisive in saying that I dissociate myself completely from any confirmation of the remarks in that article. I think nothing could distort the true picture more than the doctor's remarks in that article.

I live there. I live in a normal community. I have travelled over the Mackenzie and over the Yukon. Nowhere have I found conditions such as those described by the good doctor. I am sure he meant well in writing this article. I do not know what experience he has in the north, but I do suggest that too many people write articles along the lines of the one quoted by the hon. member when they have not a scintilla of actual knowledge of living conditions in the north.

We are normal, healthy Canadians in the north. We are up there with a great deal of faith in the development of the country for the benefit of the whole of Canada. Nothing could be more wrong than the picture painted by the author of that article.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, actually I am very glad the hon. member for Port Arthur raised the question of contributions to the magazine "North". I do not know how many issues of this magazine he has seen, but it is a policy of the editor to encourage contributions from all possible sources, particularly those who have some