

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Act*

participatory democracy. But as soon as committees bring forward something useful, out it goes because the government does not want it. What is more deplorable is that the same Liberal members who voted for these reforms in the committee will probably be told to vote against them in the House of Commons. Certainly the Parliamentary Secretaries will toe the line. Maybe one or two of the Liberal backbenchers will have the guts to vote the same way as they did in the committee.

The minister is afraid of giving the council this power although he still has the power of disallowance: it is in the existing act. He has two years within which to disallow any piece of legislation passed by the council, the same as the power to disallow resides here in respect of provincial legislation. Under the terms of this bill, that period is being shortened to a year. At any time within a year the minister has power to disallow any bill passed by the Yukon council. With that umbrella of power, what is he afraid of? It is no deviation from the prostitution of the principle of democratic government to say, "I have spoken with the elected members of the council of the Yukon. They seem like reasonable fellows. I do not think they will abuse their power to raise their indemnities, and whatever they say I will accept." This measure is an exaggeration. This is not local government. This is not decentralization. This is not democracy. This is Simon Pure colonialism with "cela va bien, Louis XIV."

• (4:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those in favour will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Speaker:** I my opinion the yeas have it. By virtue of the Standing Order 75(11) this division will be postponed until later, by agreement among members of the House.

The Chair may now be in a position to strike a further blow at hon. members' efforts toward participatory democracy. We have on the Notice Paper four notices, Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10, all standing in the name of the hon.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). There is no particular urgency in the matter, but I wonder whether the hon. member would like to argue these proposed amendments individually or en bloc. We might consider No. 7 first. The hon. member will realize the difficulty of the Chair. This motion seems to want to amend the act rather than the bill; the first words of the proposed amendment indicate that rather clearly. I would be pleased to hear the hon. member on the subject.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, to save the time of the House I think we can deal with all of them, if Your Honour will permit me to simply deal very briefly with the principle of the amendment, which is rather necessary to lay the groundwork for my argument. Section 24 of the Yukon Act is in essence the same as section 54 of the BNA Act which prohibits the introduction of any money legislation into the Yukon legislative council unless by message of the commissioner, similar to the message of the Governor in Council or the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the provinces.

Motion No. 7 endeavours to permit a member of council to introduce such money legislation. If that is not accepted, alternatively, an advisory committee could do so. If that is not accepted, the majority of members of council could introduce such a bill and, alternatively, if none of those methods is accepted then the executive council—or, as the minister has termed it, the executive committee—could introduce it.

The first argument I should like to submit in support of the assertion that these amendments are in order is a ruling made a few moments ago when we were dealing with a point which I raised in connection with amendment No. 3. This was ruled in order notwithstanding the fact that it had been discussed in amendment No. 2. We have just finished dealing with an amendment moved by the minister, No. 7, which dealt with section 24 of the Yukon Act. Section 24 was introduced into the bill by an amendment of the committee duly constituted by this House. The debate which has just concluded, the vote upon which has been deferred, concerned the amendment of the minister as follows:

That Bill C-212, an act to amend the Yukon Act, the Northwest Territories Act and the Territorial Lands Act, be amended by striking out subclause 2 of clause 5 on page 3 thereof.