

*National Housing Act*

**Mr. Regier:** In that case I will read it in *Hansard*. I was obliged to be absent from the chamber for the purpose of attending a meeting.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 13.

**Mr. Herridge:** I should like to ask the minister this question. Suppose a municipality had a rather peculiar and difficult problem something like the one I suggested previously. Under this section can they call upon your people to come in, look it over, advise them and make a study of it?

**Mr. Winters:** This is the section under which I think it would be appropriate for them to approach the corporation in that regard.

**Mr. Herridge:** Thank you.

**Mr. Regier:** Would this be the section under which a municipality might ask the federal government to undertake the study of housing conditions where people live on land owned by the federal government or on water that is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and whereby a municipality might be able effectively to invite the federal government to do something about these slum areas that are definitely under federal jurisdiction?

**Mr. Winters:** Before answering that question I would have to know more about what the hon. member has in mind.

**Mr. Regier:** I am sure the minister has had representations made from Vancouver at various times with regard to people living on the flats. They are living in Burnaby as well. They live on federal government land. Many of them live in houseboats. Some of the conditions under which these people are obliged to live—and I am not blaming those people—are beyond description. I believe on a number of occasions appeals have been made to the federal government to assume its responsibility and supply these people with more adequate housing, but no action has ever been taken or no responsibility has ever been assumed by the federal government. On looking over this section, I might say that it looks as though it would be a wonderful section in that it would provide the municipality with a vehicle for appeal to the federal authorities. Am I right?

**Mr. Winters:** I do not see any reason why, quite outside the terms of the statute, the municipality could not bring that problem to our attention if it is one for our jurisdiction and responsibility. I shall be glad to bear in mind what the hon. member has said.

Clause agreed to.

[Mr. Winters.]

Clauses 14 to 17 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER COMMISSION ACT

AMENDMENTS CHANGING NAME, AUTHORIZING SUPPLYING OF OTHER UTILITIES, ETC.

**Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources)** moved the second reading of Bill No. 250, to amend the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act.

**Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I made some general remarks in regard to this bill during the resolution stage, so I shall have very little to say at the present time. However, after having received the bill and studied it to some extent I have been wondering about the position of possible private operators who may wish to establish public utilities of any sort in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. An examination of the bill by no means makes their position clear.

I am wondering particularly whether the bill as drawn places what will now be known as the Northern Canada Power Commission in a position where it has complete control of public utilities of any kind in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. In other words I am wondering whether it is possible for a private company or individual or even a municipal district to establish a public utility of any sort except with the consent of the commission and under its control. That is the one general point which I thought perhaps I should mention, and perhaps we might have some explanation from the minister.

**Mr. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** I did not have an opportunity to make a contribution to this debate when we were at the resolution stage, Mr. Speaker. It deals with an item of tremendous importance to Canada, because I feel that the bill before us, which is an attempt to broaden power development in our north land, is perhaps one of the most important steps that could come before this house.

In recent months there has been renewed attention given to development in the northern part of Canada. This has largely resulted from the fact that we have been building up our defence resources in the north, as far north as the extreme Arctic area. I think it is only fitting that we should try to bring the right balance to bear upon the subject by shifting the emphasis to activities that will