

*Northern Pipeline*

use the financial resources available to institute programs and policies, not only to deal with the pipeline, but to improve the long range quality of life in the territories. Hopefully they would also be able to use that money to set up the type of business which would allow them to tender and be involved in construction of the pipeline in a meaningful way. As the minister said in the House, it is hoped that agreement can be reached as soon as possible.

The government is also aware of its responsibility to the Indians of northern British Columbia. It has already begun discussions with them about how they can participate in planning in preparation for the pipeline. These discussions will lead to the establishment of programs to provide manpower training and to maximize employment and business opportunities for native people in the area.

Surely this is worthwhile undertaking. If manpower retraining results in the Indians being able to participate in the skilled areas, it also means they will be able to compete in the future for higher skilled jobs than the types of employment they are engaged in at the present time. Without minimizing the importance of land title and land expropriation for utilities, a point raised by the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle), these matters have no direct bearing on the question of native rights in British Columbia with regard to the actual pipeline route. No claims have been received regarding lands on the projected pipeline route. If they are forthcoming, they will be dealt with in the same good faith as evidenced in the Yukon claims situation.

The question of northern B.C. Indian interests and the environmental implications of the pipeline must involve the participation of the government of British Columbia. It is the hope of the government that its negotiations with the Yukon Indians continue in good faith to a settlement. Such good faith can only be maintained by responsible discussion of this question, especially as the legislation moves through parliament.

It is important that the negotiations and discussions not be prejudiced by irresponsible forecasts by opposition members that the government will disregard Indian interests in its anxiety to proceed with the pipeline project. This is not the spirit in which the government has approached land claim negotiations at all. Nowhere is the opportunity for Yukon participation in the pipeline project greater than in the area we have been talking about, as well as in the area of employment. There is provision for preference of Yukoners to be employed in pipeline jobs. The minister pointed out in his speech that some several hundred jobs in preliminary work might become available as early as 1979 for work such as clearing and surveying. Yukoners under the provision of the bill will be given preference for this work. This is a point the hon. member for the Yukon refused to accept and continues to make comments to the contrary.

Clause 21(2) of the bill provides that the pipeline company, in order to receive its certificate of public convenience for each portion of the pipeline, must adhere to the commitments it made at the National Energy Board hearings at the time the Alaska Highway route was discussed. These terms included

[Mr. Milne.]

preference to Yukon residents in hiring for pipeline construction and also for the procurement of materials as far as possible. These details would have to be worked out by the pipeline agency.

One important aspect of the Foothills undertaking is the proposal to provide manpower training programs which would be carried out in consultation with the government and which basically will be an extension of the northern training program which was instituted in 1970 by AGTL. This would open up skilled jobs for Yukoners and lead to the long term benefit of teaching northerners skills which could be put to use in future projects in the north. Preference to northern workers could also help lessen the impact of an influx of workers from the south. It is also the company's undertaking to do its recruitment of outside workers in the south.

Finally, I want to comment on the statements made in the House by a number of members that the Yukon government has had very little opportunity to participate in the planning of this project. I have a document here, which I could table if requested, indicating the extensive consultations that have been held between the territory and the minister, members of the government and many of the different agencies.

I might outline some of the discussions that have taken place relating to pipeline matters, such as the whole question of the upgrading of roads, establishment of business opportunities, monitoring of pipeline impact and providing manpower information, preparing property tax review forecasts, exchange of views regarding the impact information centre, a survey of native people to update the department's 1969/70 manpower survey for pipeline manpower planning, the environmental social program and the research proposals. There were many meetings held to discuss manpower delivery systems and manpower policy systems relating to the pipeline. Certainly with the amount of input that the territorial government has received and the attitude taken by the minister as well as many other people, we are hopeful that the territorial government will take some leadership in many of these issues.

The territorial government has had every opportunity to participate in the planning of this project, not the least of which would be the establishment of an agency office in Whitehorse, the exploration of the idea of an information and impact centre, the appointment of a fourth member to the executive committee, the consultative council, and the forwarding of all pipeline related correspondence and documents.

I might just take a further moment to elaborate on a few areas of the pipeline in which I am interested myself. It would seem to me that we should be careful of the impact on existing communities of a large influx of construction workers into the Yukon and the northern part of the province of B.C. I hope that the terms and conditions which will be set out will indicate that the construction camps will be some distance from these communities so that there will be a good deal of isolation associated with the construction forces. It would seem to me that demands on existing communities would be rather large if the pipeline people were to construct these camps close to communities and therefore rely on the amenities in the