

Supply—Northern Affairs

As far as our rights by effective occupation of this great and increasingly important sector of the world area are concerned, I am informed—and perhaps the minister will be able to give the exact figure in this regard—that in the Canadian Arctic islands there are about 300 Canadian civil servants, if you like, showing the flag in the right way, and that perhaps there are about 100 other Canadians permanently resident in those areas with, I should think, three or four hundred temporarily working there especially in the summer months. We should do what we can to add to that number, of course, replacing whenever we can Americans who are there and thereby strengthening our claim, which has not yet been challenged by anybody but which does bear strengthening so that in the future it will not be challenged by anybody as the commercial and strategic importance of this part of Canada grows.

One of the aspects—perhaps not very important—of this American activity in the Arctic has been complaints from time to time that our own rights of sovereignty are being prejudiced by American activities and that sometimes the United States makes it difficult for Canadians to visit defence facilities on their own soil. I remember reading a statement on this by the minister on March 13, at a time when we were all making statements. This statement was made in Toronto and he is reported to have said—perhaps he will correct me if the report is without foundation—that it was a matter of national chagrin that Canadian cabinet ministers must get permission from Washington before they could visit certain parts of Canada's north.

I would agree at once that this would be a matter of chagrin if that had to be done, except in any but a purely formal sense. I suggest that the importance of the formal necessity for this in certain instances has been exaggerated, because perhaps it is equally true that if a German cabinet minister wished to visit a Canadian NATO defence installation on German soil he might have to go through certain formalities before he would be permitted to do so. It is true, however, that we should try at every possible opportunity to show that this is our land under Canadian law and under Canadian jurisdiction.

One of the most interesting—perhaps one of the most exciting—of the minister's statements on developments in the north that I have read concerned a visit he made, I think it was to Frobisher bay, on May 5. So far as press reports are concerned he certainly gave us some pretty exciting information as to his plans in regard to this particular aspect

of development. I am reading now a report in the *Toronto Telegram* of May 5, under the headline:

A \$75 Million Northwest Territories Capital City

I know the minister is not responsible for the headline. The report reads:

A "skyscraper city" of 5,000 people will rise out of the frozen tundra of Frobisher bay during the next five years—a \$75 million government investment in the future of the Canadian north.

Perhaps when he speaks the minister will comment on this development. The report goes on to say—and this has a bearing on what I have just been saying about United States interests in this part of the world and United States developments up there—

Almost a third of the sum—

That is presumably the \$75 million for the Northwest Territories capital city.

—will be contributed by the United States government and the remainder will be a long-term, self-liquidating capital investment by the Canadian people.

Then the minister proceeded to elaborate his vision of this new capital city in terms which were very dramatic indeed. He said, as the report from the *Toronto Telegram* gives it—

A package atomic power station—developed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited especially for such northern stations—is expected to be built at the site, although it will be coupled with diesel-generated power source until day-to-day operation bugs are ironed out.

Then he is quoted as saying:

We have such a station ready now.

That is a package atomic power station, and this is a very important statement. I think it goes beyond anything I have heard in this house.

"We have such a station ready now," said Mr. Hamilton, "but it is being run by scientists. We want to be sure it can be operated by ordinary technicians,—perhaps Eskimos—before we use it as a single power source."

Then he went on to discuss in very interesting, indeed imaginative, terms the development of this capital in the frozen north. He said:

Although the site recommendation has yet to be made to the cabinet—

Perhaps it has been made since this report.

—it was learned that the recommendation by the Foundation Company of Canada Limited, retained to decide on a site, will be an amphitheatre running down to Frobisher bay within a mile of the present air strip.

A whole new concept of building in the north country is being developed for the city.

It involves the use of six-storey skyscrapers of concrete ringing a mammoth central, roofed and heated, hexagonal plaza containing stores and offices.

Well, Mr. Chairman, that is a rather exciting prospect for development as far north as