

Mr. GREEN: With regard to that, this particular item is for investigation of petroliferous deposits and of potential petroliferous areas in Canada, and the most important oil field in Canada is in the Northwest Territories. I have been asking the minister if he will make a statement on government policy with regard to developing the resources, including oil, in the Northwest Territories. The very next item has to do with mineral deposits. Surely we cannot be ruled out of order in asking questions of this type.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): I again appeal to my hon. friend. When this item was up on Tuesday evening the minister gave the committee information as to what the item was for, and he has done the same thing to-night. It does not deal with the question which my hon. friend raised.

Mr. GREEN: It does, or it does not?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): It does not.

Mr. GREEN: That is exactly where you are wrong, Mr. Chairman, because the minister himself has stated that some of this investigation for oil-bearing areas is to be in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I brought up this matter on Tuesday night. I was dealing with the subject of exploring those areas and I was ruled out of order on the same ground. The minister did, however, intimate that there was another item to come up later—it is on page 397 of *Hansard*—dealing with the expenses of liaison officers in connection with the Alaska highway and Canol projects. If he is willing that we should deal with the Canol project at that point I am quite willing to discuss it then instead of on this item. But I maintain that order in council P.C. 2904, tabled by the minister on May 5, has very much to do with this particular item—boring for oil in that area—and opportunity should be given to hon. members to discuss that war-time action on the item dealing with the exploration of those oil fields.

Mr. CRERAR: It is a mere matter of proceeding in an orderly fashion—

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I am agreeable.

Mr. CRERAR:—in the consideration of this. The hon. member for Yorkton who spoke a few moments ago raised this question on Tuesday night. This vote has nothing whatever to do with the Canol project. You might as well discuss reindeer on the arctic coast.

Mr. GRAYDON: They come under your department.

Mr. CRERAR: There is another item in the estimates on which the Canol project can be discussed. Let us discuss it when we come to that item. I say again to the hon. member for Vancouver South that this vote is not earmarked specifically for any particular project except perhaps one, namely, the expense of carrying on drilling to determine the extent and quality of sands in this northern Alberta area, which expense will be taken out of this vote. The remainder of it is there to meet requests from the oil controller. We have had these requests in each of the last two years, and this is provided, I understand, at his suggestion. He may have something that he would like the department to investigate, and if we should receive such a request we provide for expenditure in connection with it under this vote. When we come again to the general permanent work of the department which is covered in the votes which parliament will be asked in due course to pass, relating to geological surveys and the like, such matters can be raised. I sympathize with the request of the hon. member for Vancouver South. I appreciate his claim that it is important to have wise policies for the development of the north country. I do not think there is anyone in this committee who has a better appreciation of the possibilities of northern Canada than I have, if I may modestly say so. I have travelled over a good deal of it; I have seen and watched with interest, and have had some little part, through the agency of the Department of Mines and Resources, in the endeavour to restore the furbearing animals for the benefit of the Indians, and I know there is great need for a wider dissemination of knowledge of the north country. I have used my influence, modest as it is, in connection with the work of the national film board to see to it that, through the medium of the film, they should carry information to the Canadian people as to the possibilities of the north country and endeavour to clear up a great many of the misconceptions that exist about it. One day toward the latter part of August I was in Aklavik, 150 miles beyond the arctic circle, a disagreeably warm day, something like this—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Order. I wonder if we cannot deal with this item now.

Mr. CRERAR: I appreciate your calling me to order, Mr. Chairman,—

Mr. GRAYDON: I think the minister should deal with it in the civil estimates.

Mr. CRERAR:—but I want to impress upon the hon. member that the government has not been remiss—