

Mr. Nielsen: And who knows what you will be tomorrow?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We'll be here.

Mr Nielsen: He said:

I can understand the hon. member objecting to any change being made, but I think his main argument on this occasion is that he is speaking for the people of the Yukon and that the government in introducing this legislation has overlooked completely or disregarded completely the wishes of the majority of the people in the Yukon.

That is exactly the situation that exists today—when I speak against these objectionable features of the bill, namely, that 95 per cent of the people in the Yukon are opposed to it. He said further, as reported at page 4114:

That is a massive weight of evidence and a massive weight of opposition against this legislation.

There is similar material in the possession of the minister; letters and telegrams that I cannot possibly read into the record of this debate. He continued:

For the life of me, I cannot understand the minister proceeding with this bill in view of the apparent opposition of the great majority of the people in the Yukon Territory.

The minister says it should be proceeded with in the interest of the mining industry and in the interest of Canada. He knows it is not in the interest of the mining industry. He says it is; the mining industry says it is not. The minister knows that it is not in the interest of the people of the Yukon. He says it is, but the people of the Yukon say it is not.

Surely, in the name of reason neither the minister nor the government would go so far as to say that regardless of what the people in the Yukon and the mining industry think, we shall proceed with this bill and enact it into law. There is an underlying need for cures in areas in which the government has dabbled or fuddle-duddled. There is need for an Arctic waters pollution prevention act, a northern inland waters act and amendments to the Territorial Lands Act. There is need for reform in these areas. However, when you add to Bill C-187 the land use regulations, all the other regulations made under various pieces of legislation, and the white paper proposals, you have a fairly definite pattern emerging. And when added to the CDC bill and other similar policies espoused by the government, one cannot help coming to the conclusion that this government has embarked upon a road which is leading directly to state control, socialism, and nowhere else.

I had to wait for some time to obtain a copy of the recent publication "Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Approaches to Politics". This book was published in 1970. There is a prefatory note to the volume, by Jacques Hébert. This series of articles is published in book form for the first time. I wish to quote an excerpt from article 16, page 76. Mr. Hébert says there is no way that the author of this book has changed his views between the time the articles were written, in and about 1958, and today. He is speaking about humane governments and where they derive

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their power. He is speaking of benevolent despotism. The author said:

—a benevolent despot might rule wisely, establish a just order for all his subjects, and leave them enough freedom of expression. Would such a regime not be based on the consent of the people?

Yes, this is conceivable. But such consent clearly could not be taken for granted. A mechanism would have to be provided to allow the people to express their opinions freely on the excellence of the regime and the wisdom of the despot. There would also have to be some device to ensure that the despot would abdicate if opinion went against him. And finally—

This is timely:

—a means would have to be invented to designate, peacefully, a successor whom the people would agree to obey.

I think the Prime Minister may have solved that problem.

Mr. Pepin: Don't look at me.

Mr. Nielsen: I am not looking at the minister when I say that. I draw that philosophy to the attention of the House because one must compare the actions of the government with this pattern of legislation. One can only reach the inescapable conclusion that that philosophy is being implemented.

There is no way in which we will defeat the government majority and prevent this bill receiving second reading and being sent to committee. I would like to do that: that is what the people of the Yukon want. However, it seems that the will of the people of the Yukon will be overridden by this government which is intent upon completing this great experiment in socialism in the north. None the less, I make this appeal to the House, as does the mining industry, the prospectors associations, the labour unions and, indeed, all Yukon people: Wait before giving the bill second reading. Wait before referring the bill to committee. Wait until the full impact on the industry and economic fabric of the Yukon and the north as a whole is known after the publication of the white paper, in terms of legislation, which I understand will appear some time toward the end of April.

This legislation cannot be assessed in a vacuum. There is no way in which the impact of Bill C-187 upon the economic fabric of the Yukon can be assessed until after all the combined economic factors have been brought to bear on that economy. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I move:

That all the words after "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"That this bill not now be read a second time, but be read a second time this day six months."

● (3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the two preceding speakers, and I have just heard the motion presented by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). I should like to inform the House that we cannot support the motion. We feel that this bill should go to the committee of the House and that every opportunity should be given to