

placed on site with administrative officers being clothed with the authority to perform those functions in the Yukon, that are now being performed here, all of these delays, caused by the communications problem, no matter how advanced we are in technological improvements in those communications, would disappear. Applicants would be able to obtain much more expediently and efficiently the interest that they desire on land.

I am sure the Minister will agree, in any development, that it is desirable to accommodate industry and other applicants who wish to obtain land to go ahead with this kind of development. So in this specific area, for instance, lands administration, could we not embark along the road to decentralization.

Mr. LAING: Mr. Chairman, in reply to Mr. Nielsen, I will say this: the most constant and convincing complaint that I have had is in this area. People tell me that it is almost impossible to get any action with respect to acquiring land, and we have that act under very active consideration now and we are contemplating the means whereby we can do, as quickly as we can, what he has in mind; in other words, to transfer the responsibility there so that quicker action can be taken.

Mr. HORNER (*Jasper-Edson*): I would like to ask a question or two with regard to this camp ground and picnic area development. Does the Minister not feel that it might be wise to put a last push on in this program to have these camp grounds finished and cleaned up for centennial year, next year?

Mr. LAING: In answer to Mr. Horner, I would say that we think a very, very good job has been done and I know that the provinces are very happy with the effect. I think that in the province of Alberta I saw the other day there were some 560 roadside camp grounds, and I do not know how many we have in British Columbia. I think—well, I am not sure—there are a great many. The provinces seem to be very well pleased. I do not know whether he is suggesting an extension of a program. In any case, it has been transferred to the other department.

Mr. DINSDALE: I would like to ask a question about the items that have been transferred to the other department.

It has been intimated that we will be able to discuss the question under the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys but I am just wondering how that is going to be accomplished inasmuch as they will not be listed under the estimates as they stand for 1966-67. Is there going to be a special arrangement which will make it possible for the Committee dealing with Mines and Technical Survey's estimates to deal with items that are listed under Northern Affairs' estimates, or how is it going to be carried out?

Mr. MACDONALD: I think in each committee the procedures are fairly flexible. It simply will be a fact that the Minister is now responsible for the programs as a result of the Order in Council—and that has been in effect since January 1, although the legislation and names have not been altered yet—

Mr. LAING: Probably Mr. Dinsdale has a point here. The other Committee is sitting now and I would be interested in knowing whether this appears in the estimates of the other department.