

Yukon and Northwest Territories

about it because of the procedural difficulty with which he will be confronted in making that attempt.

One thing we will be doing is we will be making every effort to wipe out the formula that is imposed upon the council by the legislation. I think the minister will agree with me, after having stated he spoke with members of the Council of the Yukon, that they do not want it. They want to be free to make that increase or decrease on their own. They feel that they are responsible enough to make those decisions, and I agree with them. They feel that they are intelligent enough to make those decisions, and I agree with them. I am sure that my friend, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) would agree with them, and I am sure the Yukon Liberal Association would agree with them. I point out to the minister, in case he has forgotten, that while there may be some lack of admission in this regard on the part of the council, there are four Liberals on a council consisting of seven members so that there is a majority of the minister's followers on that council. They have said to him: "We believe we are responsible enough to set our own numbers" and that is what they have asked the minister to do. That is precisely what the minister has not done. So we will vote those amendments again in committee and perhaps even before that stage the minister might make it known to his members on that committee that he intends to accept that kind of amendment.

● (1630)

The minister has said nothing with respect to two other important amendments in the bill. My colleague, the hon. member for Kingston-and-The Islands (Miss MacDonald) has mentioned one of them so I will not waste the time of the House dwelling on that, but I do call his attention to the other one dealing with the increase in the legislative jurisdiction under section 16 (j) of the Yukon Act where certain greatly enlarged powers are given to the council with respect to legislation concerning prisons, reformatories, jails, lockups and the like. I draw his attention to the fact that no mention is made of institutions for the confinement of young offenders. It may well be that some thought should be given either to making absolutely certain that this jurisdiction is given to the council under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, as it stands now or under this legislation. I do not think we can continue to rely on the provisions of the Interpretation Act for our legislative jurisdiction in this matter.

Now, I wish to complete my remarks by saying the following. I was glad to see the NDP, at their annual meeting in Vancouver last September, adopt a resolution in favour of provincial status for the Yukon. That resolution said nothing more than that, so that there was no time limit placed on it. It is completely open ended. It is like being in favour of motherhood. I urge them to agree—and the hon. member for Northwest Territories will probably see to it that his colleagues understand—that there be a time limit on that resolution. The time to start toward provincial status by meaningful reform is now, but let them not leave it open ended. Let them say that the NDP is in favour of a resolution passed by the elected representatives of the people of the Yukon territory over nine years and three successive councils. It is all spelled out there, and there is nothing repugnant in it at all. When we

[Mr. Nielsen.]

reach that common ground, we will all be in agreement because the Yukon Liberal Association—even if its minister is reluctant to follow its resolutions—and recommendations and even if its government is loth to do so—is in accord with the feeling in the Yukon on this question and at least two political parties are almost in accord on this now.

As my last word I want to say that the national Progressive Conservative Party is the only national political party on record as including this principle of democracy in its national policy expressed by the leader of the party, and adopting verbatim the expression of the legitimate desires of the people of the Yukon as contained in their resolution 40, which is so familiar to the minister, wholeheartedly and 100 per cent. When our leader becomes prime minister this principle will not be adopted in the halfhearted way in which the minister has tried to do but will be done at once.

Mr. Lewis: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, arising out of something that the hon. member for Yukon said. He informed the House that about three years ago a non-confidence motion was moved by, I think he said, the leader of his party with respect to the north and that we voted against it. I have before me the *Hansard* issues of May 11 and May 12, 1971. Unless the hon. member was speaking about two non-confidence motions on the same subject in that session, which seems to be very unlikely, there was a motion moved by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) I led off on behalf of my party and moved an amendment to it. If the hon. member would refer to pages 5761 and 5762 of *Hansard* of May 12, 1971, he would find that all NDP members voted of course for our amendment, which the Tories supported, and voted for the Tory motion.

I am sure the hon. member for Yukon would not want to mislead the House deliberately or otherwise. I am merely drawing it to his attention. He is always such a merciful fellow, and so anxious to be correct and accurate, that I hope this correction will make him feel somewhat ashamed of his allegation which is so totally inaccurate.

Mr. Nielsen: It is one of the rare occasions when I have come to a debate without having the verbatim record before me. I am not ashamed of what I said. That was my recollection, which was obviously inaccurate, and for that the leader of the NDP and his colleagues have my full, unqualified and unequivocal apology.

Mr. Lewis: I knew it would come.

Mr. Nielsen: But my recollection was obviously based on something, and I am not so inaccurate in that, may I say with respect. I am not questioning the vote that he cited as recorded at the pages in *Hansard* to which he referred, but it must have arisen because of the manner in which his colleagues dealt with the subject matter in the debate and the reluctance with which they spoke on the matter. In any event, I am glad that the hon. member has pointed it out to me because this session still affords an opportunity to bring in a similar motion on another opposition day, and I wonder if he will be so eager then to vote for it.