

*Yukon and N.W.T. Government*

time the whole approach needs some refocussing because it seems to me the principal focus must be centred on people and their needs. In addition, we must give considerable attention to problems involving the physical environment. Pollution problems have been debated at length in this House over the past year and a half. I might just note, Mr. Speaker, that I was much surprised when I was with the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Committee of the House last January and we stopped at Norman Wells and saw the Imperial Oil refinery operation there. A pall of black smoke drifted lazily down the Mackenzie River valley as far as the eye could see to the north—a thick, black pall of smoke. In all fairness I should say that the manager indicated that steps were being taken to reduce the smoke and consequent pollution that was belching out from this refinery. Nevertheless, here in the far distant north we had a first-hand example of the problems of pollution. You could see the effect on growth in the surrounding area.

Reference has already been made in this debate to the role of private enterprise and the approach that should be taken in carrying on economic development in the north. Of course, some of our friends pay a great deal of tribute to the merits of private enterprise, of so-called free enterprise, in developing the north. I would suggest that this simply cannot be applied in the north under the conditions that exist. I would suggest this is the case, because first of all this system and approach tends to deny the public good and public needs in favour of private ones.

Secondly, the controlling assumptions of private enterprise do not hold true in the north. We know markets are monopolistic; they are not competitive. This situation will likely remain for a long time. Most shareholders of large developments in the north are not residents of the territories, and thus they have no motives other than their own personal or corporate gain. Large sections of the population in the north have no dollar power with which to influence the direction of development in that part of Canada. Third, I would suggest that the co-operative and collective approach is more appropriate to the traditional cultures of the Indian and Eskimo peoples of the north. I know some work has been done in this regard in the north, but I think this work needs to be intensified.

There are two basic types of economic development that are likely to take place in the north. The first is the community-oriented development which involves community

efforts to improve the lot of people, to improve their living conditions and enable them to live a better life, and the second is the large mining development, of which we already have some examples and of which we are likely to see more in the future.

I would suggest there are some considerable problems to deal with in that regard. First I suggest that the position and strength of territorial governments at the present time are such that they would have great difficulty in carrying on negotiations with very large mining corporations or syndicates. They may lay down laws and regulations under which such corporations might carry on their activities, but there might be a considerable problem in enforcing regulations on such matters as pollution, an example of which I gave a couple of minutes ago.

I was pleased to note that the minister drew attention to employment problems in the mining industry. He dealt with these in his address to the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, and I was pleased he took this matter up very frankly with the mining industry. But I suggest we need something more than just a peanut approach, or a Walter Gordon type of approach to this problem.

It is not good enough simply to suggest, "You need to have a few native people on your work force. You need to train a few of these people. If you do bring a few of these people into your work force, then you are very good fellows; you are making a positive contribution to the problem." But this is not adequate. This is not good enough for the needs that exist, and in the north we have a few powerful corporations already operating and which in some respects I suggest are very much a law unto themselves. A certain amount of oil development is taking place in the north. Private companies are working there. We have examples of where they are doing their best to resist government efforts to ensure that oil pollution does not become a real hazard. There is an example of this just across the Yukon border in Alaska.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Does the House give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.