

than the combined area of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan—and the Yukon is equal in area to the four Atlantic provinces. Together, these northern territories form 40 per cent of the land area of Canada. Geological surveys have indicated that Canada's northern territories are potentially extremely rich in mineral deposits, oil and gas, the exploitation of which will greatly improve the economy of our country.

The northern pipeline, as senators know, is now in its final planning stage. Construction should commence in the very near future, and its cost is estimated at over \$42 billion—almost as much as the total federal budget. This involves the settlement of land claims and the rights of the native peoples. Although the population of this vast region is small and sparse—probably around 75,000 inhabitants—the construction of the pipeline and the expanded operation of mines will greatly increase the number of people there. Canadians coming from the south will undoubtedly demand self-government and provincial status before very much time passes.

This was foreseen by the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada, jointly chaired by Senator Gildas Molgat and Mark MacGuigan, M.P., which, after hearings across Canada, including the northern territories, tabled its report in 1972. The following recommendations were submitted:

69. The objective of Government policy for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories should be the fostering of self-government and provincial status.

70. The provisions of the British North America Act, 1871, section 2, which provide for the admission of new provinces by action of the Federal Government alone, should be continued, provided that no territory should become a province without its consent.

71. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories should each be entitled to representation in the Senate.

To the credit of the government, the last recommendation was implemented, and now one representative for each of these territories sits in this chamber—Senator Paul Lucier since 1975, and since 1977 Senator Willie Adams, who introduced Bill C-28. However, the aforementioned joint parliamentary committee recommended the appointment of two senators for each territory. Under the constitutional rule that a province cannot have fewer members in the House of Commons than the Senate, it would lead to an increase in the number of members of Parliament, and thus give better representation for each of these territories. This would vastly improve communications between Ottawa and these territories at the parliamentary level, which is highly desirable at this time of tremendous economic developments in the north.

• (2130)

Honourable senators, although larger representation on the Territorial Council will surely be of some benefit to it in discharging many of its responsibilities, if additional powers are not granted soon it will invariably lead to trouble, frustration and deadlock. Canadian citizens living in northern Canada should have the same rights and roles in government

[Senator Yuzyk.]

as the residents of the provinces. It is not enough to grant more representatives; they must also be granted additional powers resulting in responsible government.

The recommendation of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, that the Yukon and the Northwest Territories should receive self-government and eventually provincial status, must be considered seriously and gradually implemented. Our citizens in northern Canada will not tolerate colonial and second-class status for long. They must be assured that the government is taking concrete steps to bring the northern territories gradually into line with the provinces in all respects.

Bill C-28 should be regarded as a stepping-stone towards that goal. Sooner or later the Councils of these territories will be demanding to be converted into legislative assemblies. One thing for certain is that their governments will have little difficulty in raising sufficient taxes. The development of the rich resources will provide more than adequate revenue for governments to promote a high standard of living for the citizens.

The senators and members of Parliament representing these vast regions have a just cause to fight for in the Canadian Parliament. As a member of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada and a member of the Special Joint Committee on Immigration, I visited the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory in 1971 and 1975 where, at the hearings, I raised and discussed the issues of responsible government and provincial status for these regions and found that the witnesses were preponderantly in favour. As a member of the Special Senate Committee on the Northern Pipeline, I am keenly interested in the development of self-government in the Canadian north.

I am sure that many members of the Senate and the House of Commons will support efforts to achieve this goal. We are looking forward to our two colleagues, Senator Willie Adams and Senator Paul Lucier, to be strong advocates of the rights of the peoples of the territories, who have in many ways been neglected by the federal government and Parliament.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tem: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Senator Adams: moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

BANKRUPTCY BILL, 1979

SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Hayden, seconded by the Honourable Senator Laird, for the second reading of the Bill S-14, intituled: "An act respecting bankruptcy and insolvency".—(*Honourable Senator Langlois*).