

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

council, "You take the administration of justice under your wing. Set yourselves up a territorial attorney general's office and go ahead and administer justice".

The government should not try to do this by attempting to delude the members of this House, the people of the territories and of Canada at large into believing that some kind of progress has been made. All the government is doing is transferring the function from Ottawa to Whitehorse through a federal civil servant. That is the situation, and it is the same situation in the Northwest Territories as in Yellowknife. It is an unsatisfactory situation. It is not at all what the people of the Yukon want, and the minister of northern affairs knows that.

Although it has nothing to do with the bill, the minister speaks of the Indian and Eskimo people in the north, who are always singled out as being something apart. The minister spoke of only one Eskimo and one Indian being on the Northwest Territories Council; that they are Canadian citizens and are given the same opportunity as anybody else to run for elections on either of these councils.

However, if the truth of the matter were known there is in the Northwest Territories a marked racial prejudice fostered by the minister's department. The minister shrugs. Let him tell me why does he does not extend the water and sewer systems in Inuvik beyond the edge of the town and start to service Indian homes in the area.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I think the hon. member is completely out of touch with the facts. There are now in Inuvik Indian and Eskimo homes under the system, and we are extending the system. But there are many people coming to Inuvik from outside. As a result of the great progress that we have made in the economic development of the Northwest Territories, the population in the Inuvik area is increasing. This cause the facilities to be overburdened. However, this can be contrasted with the situation that existed when the hon. member's party was in power. The situation then was one of depression.

• (3:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Nielsen:** I will not look backward, as the minister is fond of doing, and I will not fight with him on a partisan basis in this debate. I accuse his department of racial prejudice, and I stand by that accusation. The minister cannot say I am out of touch with facts there, because I live there as does the

hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange). If he can tell me I am out of touch with the facts when I say that people in the Yukon live in conditions of the most abject poverty—if he can deny that I will eat my words. But until then he has to live with the accusation of racial prejudice and should start doing something about it. I suggest to him that this opinion is not my own and is not confined to the people in the north. The opinion is shared by some world organizations. I would refer to the recent gift of \$1,100 by the World Council of Churches to the Yukon Indian people to assist them in fighting poverty. I wonder if the department will match that grant.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I replied to your other leader about it the other day.

**Mr. Nielsen:** When the minister gives us this gobbledgook about maintaining a balance between political and economic development, what he is saying in effect—as he has said so often before—is that he who pays the piper calls the tune. He is saying in effect that he will continue to be the great white father to the people in the Yukon; that he will continue, through his department, keeping the people of the Yukon under the bureaucratic and administrative thumb for as long as he deems it desirable, and it seems to me that will be a long time indeed.

He says that the people of the two territories are being allowed to play a greater role in their government. I say that is hogwash. He says that these amendments to the Yukon Act will permit the people of these two territories to play a greater role in their government. That also is hogwash. He says, too—I do not know whether he said it with the intention to mislead the wise but the kindest thing I can say is that probably he did not do his homework too well and that is why he erred—that the powers of the legislature in the Yukon are the same as those in the provinces, except in the field of resources. He knows that that is not true. He knows that there is one exception to the similarity, which means all the difference in the world, and that is the power under section 24 whereby no money bill can appear before the council unless the minister says so through the commissioner. That is what we would like to see amended. I have said this in the House before and I do not know why the minister cannot understand it: certainly it should be to him, a Quebecker, just as close to his heart as it is to ours in the north and to freedom-loving Canadians everywhere.