

*Territorial Lands Act*

[Translation]

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, listening a while ago to the parliamentary secretary while glancing through the bill, I was convinced that it exclusively concerned government employees and officials in the Northwest Territories. I thought that if the bill merely concerned public servants and officials in the Northwest Territories, it had a very limited scope. The bill merely provides that the employees cannot become shareholders of a company dealing for example with real estate and mines to purchase such real estate.

For my part, Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about Quebec. I will say a word in a while about the comments of the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). If the bill is not altered as far as public servants are concerned—and when I refer to civil servants I do not include owners and residents—I think that it should also prevent them from belonging to a company trading in the Northwest Territories.

● (1520)

Hon. members probably heard of the current investigation in northern Quebec, the investigation by the Quebec government. I suggest this will not get very far, because it is a question of defrauders investigating other defrauders in the same party. All this is caused by conflicts of interest at the public service level. Some public servants get rich at the expense of the provincial or federal governments. And everything is so well schemed that they have their spokesmen here in Ottawa, in Quebec, in our area. There is no way this could be undone. Everything is schemed, as the saying goes. Money goes into pockets all year long. People believe moneys voted go to Indians, Eskimos, Inuits. But the main part is pocketed by public servants.

**An hon. Member:** What!

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Somebody said: What! Why should he show surprise? He knows full well.

This is why I say that the first part of the bill does not go far enough. It should include provisions for public servants who hold equity shares in marketing companies, snowscooter companies, arms companies. They triple their salaries with what they get from their involvement with those companies.

The bill is restricted to Yukon public servants. The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), who spoke this afternoon, advised us of a good many things. I did not know people in Yukon could not own their own tract of land. This is fantastic. It is just as amazing as what happened in our area during land reform, where a third of farmlands were eliminated by people who did not even know what farmland is, people who said those lands were not good farmland. Second generation farms were said to be uncultivable.

I feel the problem in Yukon is much more serious than commonly believed and this is why I say the hon. member for Yukon is right when he talks about Yukon owners, people living in the Yukon, because, here, I would like to make a distinction among public servants: In the Yukon, some public servants come from the area and some do not. It is obvious that those who do not should not be entitled

[Mr. Nielsen.]

to buy shares in these companies or to take part in transactions. But it is another matter when we are talking about a Yukon resident, Mr. Speaker. I believe that those who live in the Yukon should be entitled to ownership just like people in other parts of Canada.

I am not saying that they should take control of the mines, for instance, and be the main shareholders, but I believe that they should have certain rights. And I believe that the act is too restrictive because it considers on an equal basis all the civil servants who live in the Yukon, those who live here in Ottawa, and then went to the Yukon or to another province in the name of the government to earn their living. Mr. Speaker, I am simply saying that this bill will be referred to the standing committee of this House, but that it is essential to amend it. It is not at all advantageous for the Yukon and does not protect the public servants, wherever they may be.

[English]

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, it is already obvious from the discussion that is taking place here today that there are a lot of anomalies in land use north of the sixtieth parallel.

Remarkably enough, even though the theme of developing Canada's last frontier, and the theme of northern development seem to be espoused by all Canadians today, the government still has the viewpoint that with respect to land use it must keep a strong, monopolistic control over the policy to the ridiculous extent that was outlined by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) with respect to total prohibition of agricultural development in both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

I remember that when I was the minister of the department, to make things a little more human and humane in interdepartmental communications, of which the flow never ceased, we used to have a caption at the top of the memorandum that went something like this, "Woe unto them who sit on their frozen assets." This seems to be the policy that is being re-endorsed by the bill before us this afternoon. It does not do anything to resolve the restricted land use problems. It certainly does not do anything to deal with the bureaucratic bungling that has been typical of land use pronouncements since Canada finally became interested in the development of its great northern heritage.

When the Department of Northern Affairs was first set up, the late Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent said that Canada had been exercising for far too long its responsibilities for development of its northern frontier in a state of absent-mindedness. I am sure that is the only description that can be used in reviewing Bill S-20 that is before us this afternoon.

I wish to expand on some of the points made by the hon. member for Yukon with respect to the unbelievably bureaucratic approach to agricultural development in northern Canada. There is absolutely no policy on farming north of the sixtieth parallel. What has happened as a result of the decree that came from Caesar Augustus on January 10 last to the effect that there was to be a total suspension of the disposition of federal Crown land for agricultural use in both the Yukon and Northwest Territo-