

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

sicknesses. We have heard that the DIAND is supposed to deliver water. Officials have promised but nothing has been done. We are paying for water delivery in our rent each month.

The balance of the petition goes on in a similar vein. Having assumed responsibility on April 1 for many functions in the eastern and central Arctic, the territorial government moved quickly. May I quote from a translation of a letter I have received from the community which shows how quickly the territorial government was able to move to meet the requirements and wishes of the residents of Eskimo Point effectively.

Translation of enclosed letter about the petition from the women's groups for water delivery to each home in Eskimo Point.

We would like to let you know what has happened about the petition. Both Mr. Miller, the clerk and Mr. Sigurdson, the mechanic discussed the petition with Mrs. Caskey who informed us of the decision. They agreed to try and get water to each home when possible. A letter was received from Bud Orange also stating he was bringing the matter up to the department. Then a letter arrived from Mr. McGill who said he was arriving soon to talk about our problem. On April 16 a group of women, Mr. Miller and Mr. McGill discussed the water problem at length. The ladies were very pleased to learn of N.W.T. governments—

● (4:20 p.m.)

That being the abbreviation for the government of the Northwest Territories,

—new water policy. The solution to the problem is that water cards will be given to each home, and when water is needed, the card is put in the window so the water delivery man can see it. The ladies were pleased that they could even choose the colour of card—which is red, with (water) on it. This problem has been with us for many years and after asking various officials about action, nothing seemed to happen—the women decided to join in a petition. We are so thankful for the action which has been taken and wish to thank Mr. McGill for his understanding and willingness to discuss the problem with us.

With the indulgence of the House, I have just read a letter showing that the transfer of responsibility from the federal government to the territorial government based at Yellowknife has brought with it effective action in the Northwest Territories. The commissioner and members of his government are to be congratulated for the way they have attacked problems and brought the government closer to the people living in the north, in that way enabling those people to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

This government is concerned about the north. Examples of this are to be found in the present minister's expeditious handling of the bill to amend the Northwest Territories and

Yukon Acts to bring more responsibility to the councils of both territories. We have seen the declaration of sovereignty that was made by the government. There is the action of the Department of National Defence in setting up an Arctic headquarters. We have seen the action of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, which is to undertake massive hydrographic studies in the Beaufort Sea and the waters of the Arctic seas this summer.

To encourage better transportation in the North, we have spent millions of dollars for the provision of better and more efficient facilities on the Mackenzie River. Also, we have seen the action of the Department of Public Works in establishing a potential port at Herschel Island as well as the clearing of the rapids of Sans Sault, so that the river transportation system will become more functional. We have seen the action of the Department of National Health and Welfare which has expanded not only the number of personnel working in the north but the number of nursing stations. In the last four years we have seen \$40 million expended for road development. The Indian and Eskimo housing program in the territories, to the best of my knowledge, includes in excess of 1,500 new homes for the people of the north. We have seen the action of this government with regard to resource development. As Canadians, we can be proud of what the government has done in respect of our north.

Yesterday, the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) said that no major steps had been taken in the last number of years to deal with the problems of the north. He said there had been no major steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Carrothers Commission Report. What about the resolution of the question of division of the Northwest Territories that appeared in the Carrothers Commission Report? This government has said, no division. What about the naming of a capital? What about the transfer of public servants, not only from Ottawa into the field but from the federal government to the territorial government? What about the action proposed in this bill with regard to allowing members of the council to set the qualifications for electors and to set their own salaries? What about the small business loans fund which is about to go into operation? What about the housing program which was contained in the Carrothers Commission Report?