

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

corporations and companies in the territories. As I see it, there is not much opportunity for individuals from the southern part of Canada to carve out a career and a future in the Northwest Territories. I think the situation has probably grown worse rather than better since 1966 when the Carrothers Commission stated at page 172 of volume I:

It is a cold statistic that the average income of the Indian and Eskimo is one-sixth that of the national average, that the infant mortality rate is more than four times the national average, that the life expectancy of those who survive infancy is decades shorter than that of the white man, that the per cent of the uneducated element in the labour force, mainly Indians and Eskimos, is 24 times higher than the national average. These statements are a translation into impersonal statistics of packingcase houses, of tents and igloos, of primitive sanitation and bad water, of pernicious illness, of persistent coughing, of infants' coffins, of young men languishing in unemployment, of increase in juvenile delinquency (an inheritance from the urban world of the white man), of a demand for greater police services stemming, to a large degree, from a liquor problem that may itself be an adjunct of unemployment and other indicia of depression and demoralization.

That was a plain and blunt comment on the facts of life in the Northwest Territories. I have seen them. Forty years ago I made a trip into the northland on a river boat with a judicial party, and there was evidence then of a serious crisis as far as illness was concerned. Nevertheless, the native people stood tall and high. They were able to make a living by trapping and had a degree of independence which does not exist today. In the period of 40 years I have seen nothing to indicate that the civilization of the white man has done anything for them, nor is there any promise of it in this pitiful legislation.

In light of those facts, what was recommended in the Carrothers Commission report? It pointed out what was said by the Economic Council of Canada about the urgent need to make available additional financial resources to the government of the lower-income areas of the country, and it recommended that "there be a department of economic development and finance within the territorial government". Government supporters may say this recommendation has been met in part by this bill and previous bills. I say, "nonsense, it is not so." The report continues, at page 176:

(2) initially the secretary of economic development and finance be the commissioner of the Northwest Territories;

(3) there be created a Northwest Territories Development Board composed of representatives of federal and territorial government administrations and the Economic Council of Canada;

[Mr. Baldwin.]

(4) there be established a Northwest Territories Development Corporation; and

(5) there be regional economic planning, and a close co-ordination of federal and territorial governmental economic activities in the Northwest Territories.

And so on. One of the major factors would be the establishment of a Northwest Territories Development Corporation. I do not want to call up shades of the languishing Canada Development Corporation, but there is no doubt that capital is desperately required to provide a substantial foundation for the development of the type of industry and economic activities which would persuade our young people to go north and make a contribution there. In the Soviet Union there has been a great deal of this activity. The carrot, so to speak, which the Soviet Union uses to entice young people to northern Siberia is certain types of opportunities not available in other parts of the Soviet Union. But that does not occur in the Northwest Territories. Apparently those who administer the affairs of the territories could not care less about this.

• (5:30 p.m.)

What a wonderful opportunity there would be if our young people who today are frustrated, worried and undecided about the kind of world we are making for them, could go to the north and make that contribution which is so essential and which needs to be made by young people who have something to offer. But the bill does not mention that at all. Nothing has been said about this in the speeches which have been made. I give the minister credit for being interested in the north. Although I have not made as many trips to the north recently as I should have liked, I think he will agree when I say that there is tremendous opportunity for our young people to go in and make a contribution so that the northern part of Canada will become what it should be, a great resource development area where liaison between north and south will contribute to the welfare of this country.

This will require money, because it cannot be done without funds. I know that not many people live there, but we must get them there. We talk much about pollution. Today the hon. member for Skeena talked about pollution. As our population concentrates more and more in the large metropolitan areas, the dangers of pollution become greater. When large numbers of people are concentrated in small land areas, the dangers of pollution are greatest. There are great advantages to decentralizing our population in the