

● (1620)

I hoped that the minister would have acceded to the wishes of the Yukon Council to increase the number to 15. He says he consults. He knows that is the number they want. Since he says he consults, he knows they do not want that complicated formula which imposes a ceiling of two increments every 5,000 increase in population. He knows the population does not want that at all. They feel they are responsible and can decide when their council should be increased. What is the matter with that? We follow that procedure here and in our provincial legislatures. There is nothing wrong with it. The minister did go so far as to include some input in respect of setting indemnities by council, but before that 1970 amendment they had to come to Ottawa with cap in hand and say that they could not get along on the indemnity of \$1,500 a year. That was conceded and the change was made. Now, they have some input. Why cannot there be the same kind of input in respect of numbers? That is what they requested.

We have the recommendations of the Yukon Liberal Association. I do not know if the minister has been closely informed by one of those closest to him now. I note that he has. That is nice. I shall read the operative part of the Yukon Liberal Association resolution which was passed in 1967 because I read it into *Hansard* in 1970 when this legislation was before the House. It reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The membership of the Council of the Yukon Territory be increased to 15.

If the minister is so effective in getting so many things corrected in such a short time, then surely this should have been brought to the attention of the minister and we would have seen it in the bill. We do not want anything to be a little dubious about this political party representation the minister speaks of in Ottawa.

The second portion of that resolution reads:

2. That the Governor in Council appoint on the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Territorial Council of the Yukon Territory, a member of the said Council to be Chief Executive of the Territory and who will hold and discharge all the present responsibilities and duties of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.

In addition, what that resolution was calling for was the dismissal of the Commissioner as being an appointee of the minister and instead that the elected representatives be empowered to select from one of their own number a representative to hold office. I might say I do not agree with that assertion because all this would do would be to take away one elected member from the council and have him appointed as a bureaucratic representative. The third recommendation reads:

3. That four members of the Territorial Council of the Yukon Territory be elected by a majority of the said Council to assist the Chief Executive and to be responsible for the administration of the various departments of Government of the Yukon Territory.

I must assume they were serious when they advanced these resolutions. In other words, what the Yukon Liberal Association wanted—and they had a little difficulty appreciating the fact that they were not getting it if these resolutions were adopted—was an executive committee of five members, and also all portfolio responsibility to reside in that executive committee. Instead, we got from the minister three years after that legislation was passed an

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executive committee dominated by three civil servants. Now, he is pretending to induct more input by making it three elected and three appointed, but still with the Commissioner and the minister's over-all veto.

The fourth resolution reads:

4. That the necessary amendments to the Yukon Act and all other affected legislation be introduced forthwith to accomplish these aims.

Where is the effectiveness of this input by the Yukon Liberals? Obviously, they are thinking the same way, albeit ten years late. They are now enlightened and realize that what we are proposing is reasonable change. It would not create a province. It would create a recognized form of responsible government, stopping short of provincial status. The minister knows we look to the very near future when we will achieve provincial status.

I want to take a moment or two to place on the record, because everybody thinks these reforms started in 1970 with the Liberal Government, the words of the head of the government in 1958, the first Prime Minister to visit the Yukon Territory, the first Prime Minister to set foot above the 60th Parallel. He repeated that visit two years later. In September, 1958, he said it was his hope that, by the time of Canada's centennial in 1967, the Yukon and Mackenzie will have gone a long way, if not all the way, toward self-government. That hope was expressed on the basis of a policy which I and other delegates from the Yukon had succeeded, during our annual meeting and conventions, in convincing the government of that day to adopt. It was that which brought about the first meaningful changes to the Yukon Act, amendments which established the advisory committee on finance and amendments which increased the size of the council to seven, as the first step in a gradual increase by two's to 21 at which time we will be calling for provincial status.

We were the ones who developed that formula. The formula at that time—and it is outdated now I might add—was that there be an increase of one additional member for every 2,000 increase in population. Had that procedure been based on a population of 21,000, as the minister stated—he has a great way with population statistics. Whenever it pleases him to describe the tremendous value there may be in the Yukon, he uses inflated population statistics and inflated monetary statistics. However, whenever we come to him and make representations, he says that there really are not enough people in the Yukon, that he does not think there will be enough revenue from the Yukon to justify any remedies in respect of reform. So, he uses these statistics as he sees fit when he plays with the destiny of the people. He does not endear himself to the hearts of most northerners.

My colleague, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), said that in the committee stage it will be our intention to move amendments in respect of both sides of the Richardson Mountains, the Yukon Territory Act and the Northwest Territories Act. It is hoped it will be possible to move amendments to increase the number in keeping with the wishes not only of myself and this party, but also the wishes of the minister's followers in the Yukon. I hope they will be acceptable to him. The minister smiles. Perhaps there may be a doubt about that in the sense that he will not even have to speak