

Government Organization

important role in the harvesting and transportation of the wood as it bisects Jubilee-NALCO forest reserves. These reserves contain approximately 50 million cords of valuable black spruce.

Certainly a man of Mr. Doyle's standing would not be placing before the public a completely untrue statement. I can only re-view this matter, sir, in relation to the development of the northern areas of Canada by saying that there has been too much division opposite. One minister looks after one phase of development and another minister looks after another. The answer given yesterday does not meet the situation and I would suggest that there be a little more consultation.

Returning once more to the question of division of responsibilities let me ask, can anyone contend—it surprises me to find the minister of northern development doing this—that there can be any justification for dividing the areas of the sea between two departments on a territorial line enunciated in a general way by the Prime Minister in the course of his remarks? What is the reason for this? Are our great northern areas going to secure developments that otherwise would not take place? Surely there is no efficiency in this.

The explanation given is that if we accept this, swallow it, somehow or other developments are going to be initiated in northern Canada by those who now are the government of this country, who ridiculed the potentialities of northern Canada throughout the years and now want to go ahead with further developments. Instead of having unity they are going to divide the northern sea areas between two ministers. If division is going to increase efficiency, why have they not distributed the responsibility among three or four ministers? What is the purpose of this? It may add to the number of ministers, but the Prime Minister has said it will not. What is the purpose here?

Why does the minister, so out of hand, brush aside a suggestion that I thought he would have been the first to at least consider? He is not the one who is going to administer these matters; another has been chosen and that other is away today. I suggest that the minister who is piloting this bill through the house might very well postpone further consideration of it. You never know, when the absent minister comes back he might be one of the first to agree, because of the views he has expressed, that what we are trying to do is increase efficiency in this

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

connection. What is being done by the government in taking responsibility for development and dividing it, subdividing it and handing it out to one minister and another will achieve a state of chaos, which is something this government needs no assistance in bringing about.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I have been unavoidably absent from the house during the initial stages of this discussion because of attending a very thought-provoking and useful discussion with the members of the Carrothers commission who are most concerned about matters affecting the north and northern development. I really do not know what all the fuss is about. I do not know what everyone is arguing about because the matters before the house should properly be under the control and jurisdiction of the people of the north, not of this house.

Mr. Davis: You are on the wrong part of the bill.

Mr. Nielsen: I am not on the wrong part of the bill at all. If the hon. member for Coast-Capilano had any appreciation of matters concerning the north he would not make aimless remarks. Clause 17(b) deals specifically with matters about which I am going to speak. So far as divisions are concerned—

An hon. Member: We are on clause 29.

Mr. Nielsen: We are now talking about the transfer of responsibility for resources which lie in the north from one department to another, and I intend to speak about this.

So far as division is concerned, I can remember when those who now sit opposite were on this side of the house and the former minister of transport, now Canadian high commissioner in England, said in one of his speeches—this will give an indication of the kind of attitude displayed toward the development of the north by those who now sit over there—"I am sick to my stomach of all this talk about northern development where nobody lives but Indians and Eskimos anyway".

Mr. Byrne: That is why he is high commissioner.

Mr. Nielsen: Exactly. That was his record.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You say that is why he is high commissioner? Those are Liberal rewards.