

this bill could be brought before the parliamentary committee, which is meeting at the present time. The experience which was ours in dealing with the bill on the division of the territories is a salutary one in this regard. As a result of meeting face to face with the spokesmen of the territories the government changed its mind completely on the matter.

● (9:50 p.m.)

The hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange) has indicated that it is imperative that we proceed to give the territorial vote to the people in the eastern Arctic. They were given the federal vote in 1962 when we were in power, and we intended to give them the territorial vote as quickly as possible. I agree that it is imperative that they be given the territorial vote. An anomaly has existed for the past three or four years which should have been rectified before this.

I also agree that the indemnity situation should have been resolved. If discussion in the parliamentary committee will hold up progress in this regard, then I say by all means let us proceed. However, I hope this is not going to be an excuse for not giving a better response to the obvious demand for greater autonomy. When the Carrothers commission report is presented in September, I suggest that it be immediately referred to the standing Committee on Northern Affairs and National Resources so that we may draft the legislation that is urgently required.

I hope we can still make the target date of 1967 for the great step forward in progression toward more autonomy in the northwest. Vigorous action and leadership will be required on the part of the government, but judging from this discussion tonight everyone has the same aim. Personally, however, I feel that referring this bill to the committee could provide a framework within which the matter could be handled more expeditiously, because I fear a long period of delay after the Carrothers commission report is received. My recommendation is that the committee on northern affairs be given a chance to hear from the spokesmen for the north, and I would endorse the suggestion that has come from several sources that we ourselves set foot in the north. Further, I would agree the colder the better, because that is what gives the spokesmen from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon that peculiar, refreshing flavour in this house, with more of which we could all do.

23033—323½

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

On clause 1—*Council*.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, may I call it ten o'clock as there will be further discussion on this.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles: Tomorrow?

Mr. McLraith: Tomorrow we propose continuing with the two bills standing in the name of the Minister of Northern Affairs, the bill concerning the Northwest Territories through committee stage, and third reading if it is agreeable to the house, and the bill to amend the Yukon Act through second reading and committee stage. We shall then take the Forestry estimates, the Labour estimates, the Post Office estimates, and after that the estimates of the Department of Industry.

[*Translation*]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

NATIONAL CENSUS—QUEBEC—INQUIRY INTO APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) or his parliamentary secretary, because demagogic and unfounded accusations—I repeat demagogic and unfounded—were made against the government by an hon. member of this house and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that tonight's rebuttal of the allegations made by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) will receive the same coverage in the press as the accusing member got.

What is the complaint about? That people of Liberal allegiance were given the responsibility of the next national census, to begin next June 1. I do not know of any officially accepted definition of patronage but, without being a professional linguist or a lexicologist, I think, from experience of our electoral ways, that there is patronage when competence makes way to partisanship or political allegiances. If a government is lucky enough