

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), in an excellent speech made reference to some of the critical objectives set out in the Carrothers report. He noted a rejection of the concept of the division of the Northwest Territories to more political units. We go along with the minister's decision in that regard. He noted a number of decisions involving government and the development of an executive branch of government in the northern legislative structure as it has developed to date and should develop in the future. Furthermore, he noted some economic programs which must involve northern people themselves and which also involve increased funds. The need for educational programs is, of course, fundamental and the need to develop local governments to carry on community development programs is also essential.

It seems to me that our efforts must go beyond these objectives to consider other facets of life in the north. The hon. member for Winnipeg North made a brief reference to some of these factors when he noted, for instance, that the nature of white culture allows the white man in the north to prosper in the free enterprise system as we know it in that part of the country. This is something to which we must give attention.

We must also take note of the cultural traditions and background of the native people who live in the north. We must take special steps to emphasize the encouragement of local self-government in both the short run and the long run. Furthermore, we must give a great deal of encouragement to co-operative and collective enterprise in the north because the people of the north have a very unique opportunity to avoid the waste, exploitation, pollution and some of the other problems which have beset the more industrialized areas of Canada and other parts of the world.

I should like to deal for a second with some of the problems of economic development and resource management as they affect northern Canada. Reference has been made to the transfer of resources to the administration, and control of governments in the north.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question? It is for clarification. Members of the council have made it clear—as I thought I did today in the debate—that all they are asking for is the transfer of territorial resources, not national or natural resources.

Mr. Burton: I thank the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) for again noting this. I was about to note that we were very pleased

[Mr. Burton.]

that he had clarified some aspects of resource management and the interpretation to be placed on the resolution passed by the Yukon Territorial Council. I note—and this is in part what gave cause to my reference to this matter—that the minister said in his speech in Yellowknife:

—if we accept the conclusion of the Carrothers Commission, that at the moment the ownership and management of natural resources in the Territories must remain with the Federal Government—and this conclusion I support strongly both for the present and the foreseeable future.

I presume that was meant to read "foreseeable" future. I would like to draw attention to the Carrothers Commission report, where at page 18 of the summary of its report, talking about the ownership of natural resources, it noted:

• (4:00 p.m.)

In our judgment it would be premature to make the transfer at this time.

I suggest that the implication of this statement is that at some foreseeable time in the future resources would be transferred to northern jurisdiction. I was particularly interested in this matter because I come from a portion of the prairie provinces which at one time was under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories. When the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created the federal government retained control over resources and resource management. This situation existed from 1905 until 1930 when jurisdiction was transferred to the provinces under an agreement which also involved a financial settlement. It seems to me this is the type of thing we need to keep in mind when considering the future of the north. But I want to make it clear that in terms of major resources, in terms of mineral resources, we need to maintain federal jurisdiction until northern governments are able to cope with the situation.

In the area of economic development I think the focus of economic development programs must be on the needs of people. I take note of the minister's statement in Yellowknife, where he said as appears on page 2 of the distributed text that as a federal government we have two major objectives regarding the north. I quote his words:

The first objective is to protect and further the legitimate interests of the Canadian people in developments in the north—

Then he goes on to elaborate on his statement. While he does give recognition to the needs of people in some of the later statements made in that paragraph, at the same