

to develop our northern lands. The question is rhetorical because the answer is very obvious; it has no such plans to place before the House. The government's single largest failing, in my view, is that they have allowed to persist the notion that settlement in our northland is synonymous with deprivation and hardship. Under present development concepts, or rather I should say lack of them, this surmise is a logical and valid one. Surely, it should be apparent to the government that if they wish to attract to the north the human resources which will be required to develop it, they must implement a number of incentive schemes. Chief amongst these must be taxation measures which will offset the economic penalty of settlement in the north. I use the word "penalty" quite deliberately because in the present situation where the price of butter, bread and other staples, let alone any of the luxury items, is twice or more than in the southern parts of Canada, a most basic economic case can be made for tax alleviation.

Some may think that the salary differential in our northern regions is sufficient to offset the increased costs of foodstuffs, clothing and other items. This is not so, and what one must remember is that higher salaries place one in higher income tax brackets so that the net take-home pay which a person receives does not necessarily compensate him fully for the added net salary disadvantage which he encounters by living in the north.

Beyond taxation concessions to people who settle in the north, the government must consider ways of making life in the north more meaningful and attractive for its residents. It is my understanding that the Soviet Union has taken a much more progressive view in developing its northern land, and I think that we might well have something to gain from their experience and achievements. It might be opportune in this connection for the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), who will shortly be leaving for Russia, to discuss with Soviet officials some of the questions and problems which the Soviet government has encountered in developing its more northerly regions.

I do not believe that we shall ever have sustained growth in our northlands until we begin to develop fully integrated communities. This means that the residents there must have meaningful access to a well developed cultural life. It seems to me that if we are serious in our desire to develop the north, we cannot expect the people who settle there to be deprived of the benefits of multiple radio channels, television channels, live theatre and a modest and expanding range of the performing arts as well as all of the other educational and cultural institutions which mark our southern municipalities and make them attractive urban centres for our population. The days of developing our north on a frontier basis have long since passed and I would have hoped the government would have realized that a frontier mentality will do nothing to develop our northland.

• (5:30 p.m.)

In discussing the development of our northern regions, we come to a more modern and timely problem which perhaps only in the last few years has really begun to seize our attention as it should have done some years

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ago. I am referring here to the ecological problems which settlement in the north can bring about. I think it is just as important, and perhaps even more so, for the government to have on-going and in-depth studies of the environmental and ecological problems which would be faced in developing the north in the same way that they are concerned with these problems concerning the pollution of our coastal lands by merchant tankers. The permafrost of the north with its problems for drainage and absorption of waste material, and the easy manner in which the tundra can be damaged, make it imperative that before large numbers of people are encouraged to settle in the north the government should bring to bear the best scientific resources and minds possible to determine the implications of large scale human settlement of the north. Only in this way can precautions be taken to meet the problems which will surely arise. Ecology and pollution are modern terms in our vocabulary, but the consequences of our failing to give them proper consideration could well be as devastating upon our future lives as plagues and other great pestilences were to generations gone by.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I have two suggestions which I believe the government ought to act on forthwith if it has sincere intentions regarding northern development. First, I believe the time is now opportune to make the Yukon Territory a province, and the Mackenzie area as well. It is time that the residents of these two territories were removed from their semicolonial status and accorded the full rights and advantages of provincial status. I believe that the psychological effect alone of such a step by the government would help to attract more people to the areas.

Second, I urge in the strongest possible terms that the government reconsider and withdraw the increased mining taxes and royalties payments which the proposed new Yukon minerals act would enact from mining in the Yukon Territory. Few measures could be more detrimental to the development of the north at this time than for these burdensome measures to become law.

In summing up, Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to say that I support the motion because the government is derelict on all counts in developing a northern policy, as I have endeavoured to outline in my few remarks.

**Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in the few moments that remain until the bell must ring I cannot possibly deal with all the issues raised in the motion and the amendment before us, nor indeed with all the issues surrounding northern policy and northern development.

**Mr. Baldwin:** It would take you an hour to defend the government.

**Mr. Mahoney:** Nevertheless, I should like to raise a few issues. In the first place, I note that in the debate which hon. members opposite made possible a few weeks ago on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, the environmental aspects of this particular subject as introduced by the NDP amendment were dealt with in an extensive and adequate fashion. Had they listened to or even read that