

million, close to 50 per cent more than the corresponding figure for 1970. The value of loans to northern businesses under the Small Business Loan Funds has increased from \$375,000 in 1970-71 to over \$800,000 in 1972-73.

● (1510)

Mineral production in the territories rose from \$211 million in 1970 to an estimated \$316 million last year. The number of tourists visiting both territories has increased from 80,000 to 300,000 in the past ten years. Oil and gas exploration expenditures rose from \$122 million in 1970 to an estimated \$250 million last year. The wholesale value of eskimo arts and crafts is estimated at over \$3 million for 1973.

This record of economic growth is impressive, but so are the advances that have been made in regard to social improvements in the territories. One measure of this is the growth in the provision of government services. For example in 1970-71 the government of the Northwest Territories had a budget of about \$72 million. In 1973-74, the budget had increased to more than \$120 million. In the Yukon, a similar comparison shows a budget of about \$25 million in 1970-71, which increased to more than \$49 million in 1973-74.

These figures reflect real progress in social development over the last four years. For example, a northern rental housing program for Indians and Eskimos of the NWT expanded by 350 housing units, and low income housing in both territories increased by 875 units; significant growth in the number of employment opportunities for native people in the government service on such projects as the Higher North Program for clearing the right of way for the Mackenzie highway, in private industry, in mining and oil and gas exploration activities, and in training programs for teacher's aids, dental assistants, and interpreters in native languages; construction of some 300 miles of new roads at a cost of \$63 million since 1970; the construction of four remote airstrips, 14 resource airstrips, and numerous emergency airstrips; the creation of 11 new municipalities, including one city, two towns and eight hamlets in the Northwest Territories, and the expansion of the city of Whitehorse to a community of more than 11,000 people. These figures on government expenditures of course also relate to the provision of basic services, such as municipal infra structure, to the growth and expansion of educational services, and to social assistance and community development.

All of this gives you some idea of the scope of change that has taken place in the territories in the past four years. It strongly reinforces the case for the introduction of further steps toward the assumption of greater responsibilities by the people of both territories. The case for giving the people of the territories more control over their affairs is also strengthened by our experience with operation of the changes which this House approved four years ago and with the arrangement we introduced then to give the elected representatives a voice on the executive side of government.

As you know, I undertook to have elected councillors in the Yukon participate directly in the administration of the territorial government. I arranged with the commissioner of the Yukon to establish an executive committee to

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advise him in his duties and, on the recommendation of the whole legislative council, to appoint two elected councillors to serve full time and for each to assume responsibility for the direction of one or more departments of territorial government.

In my view, this joining of the executive and legislative sides of territorial government has worked well. The legislative council has responded positively to this initiative and the elected executive committee members have done an admirable job of discharging their important responsibilities. The commissioner has routinely sought the advice of the executive committee on all major matters under his administration.

The changes I am proposing today to the Yukon and Northwest Territories Act are intended to build upon this tradition; to fulfill my government's commitment to provide for the further evolution of self-government in the territories and to meet the needs of the people of the territories for more control over their affairs, to have more say in the decisions that affect them. I should mention that I have discussed these proposals in the past two months in Yellowknife and Whitehorse with members of both territorial councils. We have had a free exchange of views, and their ideas have been a great help to me in formulating these proposals.

Let me deal with the changes that affect the Yukon Act first. This bill proposes a substantial expansion in the membership of the Yukon Council from the present seven to a total of 12 elected members. This measure is designed to reflect the increased population of the Yukon and its geographical diversity. This expansion of council is strongly recommended by both the commissioner and the present Yukon Council. The most recent council asked for a substantial increase in council membership and the appointment of a third councillor to the executive committee.

It is my intention to complement the larger council by increasing the number of elected councillors on the executive committee from two to three. Under such an arrangement the commissioner would remain chairman, but during the life of the next council it may be desirable to reduce the number of appointed members of the executive committee, and I will consult the council about this. Any reduction in the number of appointed members on the executive committee would leave the elected members in a majority position.

The bill also provides for increases or decreases in the size of the council in line with future changes in the Yukon's population. This is a new approach and I believe an important provision, especially since significant population fluctuations may occur as a result of changes in the largely resource based territorial economy.

The other proposed amendments to the Yukon Act are designed to clarify existing provisions or practices. They have no policy implications and are adequately described in the bill.

The changes I am proposing to the Northwest Territories Act are necessarily different from those to the Yukon Act. As you know, the Yukon Territory has had a fully elected legislative council since the turn of the century. The most important change to the Northwest Terri-