

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Act*

the original section of the bill. That is a very sad and retrograde step. I am very sorry that on this one occasion the minister did not stand up to his officials and say, "No, sir. Democracy is going to work in this instance. We intend to consult these people."

● (4:30 p.m.)

One of the minister's supporters put it very neatly. This is what he said: "I have heard of zoning parts of municipalities, but I have never heard of zoning 40 per cent of Canada." This is precisely what has been done. The minister will be sitting on his throne, directing his bureaucrats. I say this kindly. They are going to write out permits enabling some trapper to build a cabin on his trapline or to enable some outfitter or guide to take a few horses into an area to hunt, and the like. The power is unending. Perhaps Your Honour will permit me to be irrelevant in closing, and to say that this is all part of the same pattern. The government wants to become an absolute oligarchy and it is going about the process in the right way.

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, listening to dissertations on home rule for the northern territories, I imagined I was in the British House of Commons. If there had been an Irish lilt in that voice I would probably have been persuaded to vote for Irish home rule—in this case, home rule for the northern territories. I will say nothing about the legal technicalities involved in the argument because I am not an authority in that field, but it seems to me the minister might consider allowing more local authority, local control and local responsibility, in some areas at least.

I would not go so far as the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) would wish, because I feel these people and their governments are subject to such great economic pressures; that they might not be able to stand up to the big companies. However, while I have some reservations, in general I support the idea of increased home rule for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on that aspect of the matter. I do not want to be too bad for the people there, but we have these powers for controlling the use of the land because we are trying to make sure that in the north we do not repeat the errors we have made in the south. Everyone is aware of the delicate nature of the northern ecology. We have to make sure

that the development which takes place in the north is rational and under control. If there are trappers or other people who suffer from the exaggerations of those who are in the bureaucracy and enjoy it too much, I think they have a recourse which is most useful. They are supposed to have a Member of Parliament here who can raise hell in the House of Commons—when he is in Ottawa, of course. I think this would be a way. It is all very well to say there is no democracy, and so on, but in the north there is still a special responsibility for the natural resources of the territories and the Yukon.

The hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson) mentioned a few moments ago the pressure which can be exerted by big companies, whose effects on a small population might be too great. There is, of course, the presence of elected members in this House of Commons, in addition to representation on the executive, and the special interest of the minister in the affairs of these territories and the Yukon.

**An hon. Member:** When he is there.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Yes, but I have been told by the people of the Yukon that the Minister of Northern Affairs is more often in the north than any other minister before him. I enjoy being there. I think it is a wonderful place. Since people are now beginning to go into the north, one of the rewarding aspects is that so many would like to go with the minister or the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) on these visits. Indeed, I think a plane should be available for the minister for that purpose.

**Mr. Nielsen:** You should invite me more often.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I believe that with the representation now afforded in Parliament and on the council, we can make sure that the rights of the little people in the Yukon will be protected. When I was with the hon. member in the wonderful little place called Old Crow, the people there raised a local problem about an industry which had moved in without bearing in mind the local resources and the activities of the people in trapping and hunting. We corrected the situation on the spot.

**Mr. Nielsen:** We did not need legislation to do it.

**Mr. Chrétien:** That is right. I used moral suasion. But perhaps when really big interests are involved it will be more difficult in the