

**Mr. Nielsen:** Now the minister says that the mining industry had been stagnated for several years. I could not agree with him more. Right up to 1958 the mineral industry in the Yukon was stagnating. He speaks of new roads, new incentives, new policies. Almost without exception those policies and incentives were implemented in the years 1958 to 1960. The Dempster Highway was commenced in 1960. The minister speaks with great pride about this "new road", the new Dempster Highway that will open up all sorts of wonderful opportunities. He is right. But I say that when this government took office in 1963, it did not have to drop the road. It was going well as started by the previous government and it would have been completed now. The then Prime Minister and the then Minister of Northern Affairs knew what was going to happen in the north and what did happen at Prudhoe Bay, and now we have the question of the pipeline and all sorts of difficulties with transportation because this government did not have the foresight to carry on with that road. They were pleased to call it the famous road "from igloo to igloo". Those igloos look pretty attractive now!

Let us get the facts straight. The minister says he is excited by the prospect which now exists in the Yukon. We were excited prior to November 9, 1970, when he brought down this bill, but now we are depressed. He says he is excited at the prospects for all the north. We were excited, too, before he brought down this bill, the land use regulations and the plethora of regulations which will smother development in the Yukon. We do not share his view. He, of course, does not mind that depression, being so far away from the Yukon and the north. He says this is a new take-off point. It will be—right over the cliff of disaster—if he does not bring in substantial amendments to this bill.

The minister speaks of amenities in the north and paints a rosy picture of what this bill will achieve in the creation of new production: it will make the land of the north a Utopia for everybody there. He referred to "the amenities of life which everyone expects today". Suddenly the government has taken an interest and has decided to take over power where private capital was prepared to do the job. Private radio was there, private power was there, private TV was there—it was private investment all the way. The minister will find a very marked departure from that if he insists that this bill goes through as it stands.

The minister speaks of directly involving the people. If he wants to do this, let me tell him what the people want. A resolution was forwarded to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on February 12, over the signature of Mr. Van Tassell, president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and to the chairman of the standing committee. This is the voice of the mining industry in the territory. The resolution reads:

Whereas the heart of the economy of the Yukon depends upon the maintenance of an attractive climate for the infusion of investment capital in the mining industry;

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### Yukon Minerals Act

And whereas several government measures now in existence and pending, such as the land use regulations made under the Territorial Lands Act, the regulations made under the Northern Inland Waters Act, the forestry regulations, the Yukon Minerals Act, the white paper on taxation and others have already seriously retarded investment and exploration activity to an alarming degree;

And whereas Bill C-187, the Yukon Minerals Act, is primarily responsible for a substantial degree of the investment and exploration withdrawal which has and is now taking place in the Yukon with respect to the activities of the mineral industry by reason of the many harmful provisions contained in the said Bill C-187 such as, *inter alia*, the power to make regulations under the act, the lack of sufficient provisions for judicial appeal, oppressive royalties provisions, the unbridled discretionary powers of the minister and government officials;

And therefore the Yukon Chamber of Mines resolves unanimously

That the Prime Minister of Canada be requested to have Bill C-187, the Yukon Minerals Act withdrawn from consideration by the Parliament of Canada and that the Yukon Quartz Mining Act be retained as the statutory code governing the mining and exploration activities in the Yukon.

The position of the Yukon Chamber of Mines with respect to the land use regulations is set out in a two-page document attached to the resolution. I quote the last recommendation as follows:

We strongly and openly declare that the government has two pronounced choices:

(1) Turn a deaf ear to our proposal of "land usage" in our minerals act and set the Yukon economy back possibly irreparably; or

(2) Implement our proposal and generate a healthy economic base for the Yukon and a return to the people of faith in the government's wisdom in legislation.

• (3:10 p.m.)

Industry and the people in the Yukon want regulations to be written into statutory form, to provide some basis for long-range planning by the mineral industry. That is not too much to ask. That is the way the mining code operates in the Yukon, and it has not retarded development: in fact, development has increased; it has enjoyed very healthy growth. Let us look at some of the comments of mining companies which have been in communication with the British Columbia and Yukon chambers of mines. One company says:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the proposed amendments to the Yukon Quartz Mining Act. The proposed section 73 (20), if enacted, will stifle much of the mineral exploration work in the Yukon Territory.

The problem...is not whether it "would" work in the Yukon under the proposed new regulations, but whether it "could"—

The writer was speaking of the Canadian ownership clause. Another communication from a company engaged in exploration and construction, in part reads as follows:

If the bill is passed, there could be unfortunate repercussions if Alaska or other states adopted similar legislation.

Another communication reads:

One would think that times are bad enough with a recession on hand, the uranium closure and Mr. Benson's tax proposals in mind without adding another factor to turn people towards Australia!