

Supply—Northern Affairs

it concerns the agreement entered into between the governments of Canada and the United States. I believe this agreement should be tabled, since the minister has made lengthy quotations from it. I think the hon. gentleman should take my remarks into consideration when he sees them in *Hansard* with a view to tabling this document.

I did refrain from speaking at length on the estimates of the Minister of Transport when they were up for consideration, but since every department is concerned with affairs in the north because of the direct responsibility which exists there as far as the federal government is concerned I might again mention the representations which have been made for the improvement and extension of the several airports in the Yukon. I did not get a direct answer from the minister this morning when I asked what steps were to be taken to oblige the legislative council which has requested the presence of an official of the Department of Transport for the purpose of discussing these communication links.

I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Justice, through the Secretary of State, to the lengthy delay which has been experienced in obtaining a senior legal officer for the Yukon, especially since this post has been established as a first step toward the assumption of jurisdiction in the matter of justice in the Yukon. The appointment will lead the way to the eventual creation of a solicitor general's department in the Yukon, and the longer we delay in obtaining the services of a senior legal officer, whose post has already been approved, the longer we shall have to wait to achieve this purpose. Perhaps the stumbling block is the fact that the category is not high enough to attract a solicitor of the calibre needed to take over this position.

Since this is the first opportunity I have had to do so, I want to draw attention to policies which have resulted during these years from 1957 to 1963 in a dramatic opening up of this portion of northern Canada. I read carefully the statement made by the minister when he presented these estimates and it seemed to me he was telling us that the vision which has been so often ridiculed and derided was not justified, and that perhaps the better course would have been to have made an effort to attract private investment in order to create the development which is desired in the north. This is very true, but government has to create the right atmosphere before private investment is attracted to the region, and in the absence of communication links and large expenditures on roads, private investment will not come.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

For the expenditure of slightly more than \$22 million which was made in the Yukon between 1957 and 1962 during the period of the Progressive Conservative government there has been substantially more activity of an exploratory and development type in the Yukon and in the territories than ever before in Canada's history. Here again, I was disappointed in the minister's opening remarks. He seemed to be indicating that because of the small population in the north there was no justification for large federal expenditures. Again I would point out that the northern part of Canada is the property of all Canadians and, surely, the government should have the foresight to plan ahead so that the mineral riches of the north will be available to meet market demands which, I think all agree, will arise within the next few years.

It is not much good waiting until the demand is there and see the market taken up by other nations which are more prepared than we are. One of the most striking examples which can be given in this regard is the discovery of iron in Australia and Canada almost simultaneously. If we do not act quickly to obtain markets we shall lose them. The land in the north is being held in trust by the government and by the people who live there for Canadians everywhere. The minerals and other resource riches in the north are capable of being developed substantially, as was shown beyond doubt during the years between 1957 and 1963 and I hope this government will continue the policies which were established under the Conservative government and during the ministry of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, who is the author of so many dramatic programs in the north which had the effect of attracting the very type of private investment to which the minister referred when he introduced his estimates. I must say too that the leadership of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle was followed through by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris when he became minister and these policies were continued.

I am rather afraid though that there seem to be indications that the minister is departing from those measures that were so well received during the six years to which I have had reference. There seems to be an indication that construction is falling off. There seems to be an indication that policy decisions are being made which are cutting back investment in northern Canada. So many times when my friends opposite were in opposition I heard Liberal members rise and say that we should not be spending so many millions of dollars in the north but rather the money should be spent in the more southerly portions of Canada where more people live. I think this is a very wrong principle because