

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

In this connection the Yukon Indian advancement association, an association unique of its kind is doing some extremely good work. But I believe they could do with a good deal of assistance. These co-operative societies are working well in the Northwest Territories with the Eskimo and Indian people. They are working very well with the Saskatchewan Indian people, and in my view in an area such as the Yukon territory, where the branch is 100 per cent responsible for the Indian people, a good deal more attention could be paid to accelerating the establishment of this type of endeavour.

Then, too, the director of the Indian affairs branch will recall that in June 1958 he held consultations with the various leaders of the Indian people in the Yukon and they put forward several requests and representations. One of the requests put forward by the Dawson Indian people was for a freezer. This same request was put forward by the people of Teslin. I am wondering whether these units have been established in these places and whether they will be established in other localities in the Yukon. If they have not been established in Dawson and Teslin and if it is not the intention of the branch to establish these units elsewhere in the Yukon, I am wondering why.

I should also like the minister to inform me of the amount that the branch has contributed to the general health and welfare of the Yukon Indian people as opposed to the amount spent on education. I am wondering if there have been any grants made to Whitehorse hospital, Mayo hospital or Dawson hospital and if any other grants along those lines have been made. If the minister has figures available I should like to know how many new homes have been constructed for the Indian people in the Yukon Territory since 1957. I wish to know what those houses cost to build and how many families they have accommodated.

I also wish to know from the minister if the particular housing problem that the Dawson people have been saddled with has yet been solved. There are new homes there which I understand have not yet been occupied because of the refusal of the city council of Dawson to pass them as being fit for habitation. I believe the question involved is that of adequate plumbing.

One further feature of the administration of Indian affairs in the Yukon Territory to which I should like to draw the attention of the minister is the policy of the territorial government of the moment which is such that it does not participate in the payment of any old age assistance to the Indian people there. I believe that this is wrong. In my opinion the Indian people of the Yukon are

entitled to receive old age assistance benefits in the same sense as they are provincially.

The Yukon Indian is a consumer of beer. He is lawfully entitled to buy beer in the Yukon and thereby contributes substantially to the tax coffers of the territorial treasury. There would appear to be no reason why this discrimination should exist between the aged Indian people and the aged non-Indian citizens there. Perhaps the minister could take this up with her colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources with a view to seeing what could be done through the commissioner-in-council in the Yukon.

There is another facet of the administration of the territorial government to which I wish to call the minister's attention. As the hon. lady knows, the children's aid society has now been taken over by the territorial administration. To be more accurate, I should say that the work previously done by the Yukon children's aid society has now been assumed by the territorial administration. The territorial administration, I feel, is paying more than its fair share of the cost of this work. I have here some figures which have been supplied to me concerning the number of welfare cases that have been handled in the Yukon during the period April 1 to October 31, 1960.

It would appear that of the number of individuals worked with in circumstances where protective welfare assistance was required, 62.5 per cent of the number of cases involved were Indian people. I do not believe the Indian affairs branch is yet making any contribution to the territorial government in this work. If I am wrong, perhaps the minister can set me straight. Of the number of individuals worked with, 63.7 per cent involved Indian children. Of the children in care during this period, 45 per cent were children of Indian status and with respect to the number of children in care as compared with the number of individuals worked with, the percentage is the same, 45 per cent.

In my view the branch should be making a contribution toward the cost of the welfare work which is being done by the territorial government. Otherwise that government is circumscribed. Its revenues permit it to go only so far in welfare work. It simply does not have the funds to even bring its welfare efforts up to standards comparable with those that exist in the provinces to the south. I should be very grateful if the minister would answer these several questions.

**Mr. Badanai:** Mr. Chairman, during the discussion on the resolution, I suggested that education was one of the principal factors in