

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

● (4:40 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: That is not correct.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, this is not important. As far as the Yukon is concerned, the ratio may vary slightly.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: It is 10 to 11 per cent. The minister's officials have added in the background papers—**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien).

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, this is not important. I shall refer to the speech I made in Yellowknife and I shall say that, as regards employment:

[English]

The government now has the opportunity to ensure that development of resources in the north will be to the benefit of all citizens of the north. I made the plea, and I repeat it today, that there be an orderly development of resources in the north so as to provide employment for Eskimos and Indians who want to take employment. I am not saying that all Indians and Eskimos must be miners; that is not what I have in mind. But if they do want to take jobs, we want to make sure they are employed in the development of resources of the north. We must make it possible to establish in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon the kind of society that we want in Canada. I have indicated to the mining industry many times since I have been minister that they have to work in that direction, and I must say some good progress has been made.

For example, in the Yukon I have communicated with all companies, and more and more of the Indian people are being employed in mining and related services. While I was in Yellowknife last week I had the pleasure of signing an agreement with Pine Point Mines and the union to enable Indians and Eskimos to receive training if they wished to take employment with the Company. I know one should not be obliged to sign a contract to that effect, but I hope the day will come when this kind of training will be normal practice in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and ministers will not have to poke their noses into such matters as this.

The economic development proper, is now simply fantastic in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, when one considers that in 1963, the value of the mining production in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon amounted to only \$20 million; in 1969 our mining production will be over \$200 million.

With respect to possible new developments, we are told every day that new minerals have been found both in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

I could likewise mention other important breakthroughs, such as the famous Mary River mine in Baffin island which is perhaps one of the world's most important iron ore deposits.

I could also list many other areas in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, a part of Canada that is promised to the most spectacular development in the years to come, as we learn every day from mining explorations.

And what about the black gold rush, I mean the oil rush, going on in the Territories, and in northern Yukon, in the Mackenzie Delta and the Arctic Islands as well.

It is still more interesting to note that the potential there is perhaps as big, or even bigger, than the important finds of the past years on Alaska's north shore.

And when Panarctic Oils Limited, in which the share of the federal government is 45 per cent, and that of private enterprise 55 per cent, started its operations in the North, the very first drilling uncovered a large concentration of natural gas of over 13 million cubic feet per day, which obviously means that the experts were absolutely right when they chose to drill at that all-important site for its sedimentary formation. This discovery of a large deposit of natural gas is perhaps not very significant due to the great distance from Melville islands. However, in view of the technological developments which make it possible to liquefy gases, and so on, the discovery may prove important for the future.

Another thing also is still more important: it is obvious that in these Arctic islands, the formation of hydrocarbons is highly important. In the near future, all Canadians will find new resources to compete or improve our balance of payments and our foreign markets.

Still, the socio-economic development of the North cannot be achieved unless all Canadians accept their responsibilities towards the first inhabitants of the Territories.

In that area, over 50 per cent of the residents are Eskimos or Indians, and in the Yukon the ratio is roughly 15 per cent.