

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

Territories. We have a wholly elected council. All seven members are elected, but they are only rubber stamps for the policy enunciated to the commission by the minister. Then we have paragraph G:

The status of the Yukon Legislative Assembly to be enlarged so that it shall have full capacity to attend all inter-provincial and federal-provincial conferences and to participate in resulting discussions and agreements.

I ask, why not; why do not Canadians in the north, through their elected representatives, have a voice in such things as the constitutional conference? Why must the Yukon and the Northwest Territories be represented at constitutional conferences by a civil servant?

H) The Land Titles Act to be repealed in respect of the Yukon Territory and replaced by a Land Titles Ordinance.

I) All Crown land to be held in the name of the Crown in right of the Territory.

I should like to make another thing clear. In all these points I am making on behalf of the members of the council, they are not asking for the transference of all Crown land to their control. They merely ask that the land now held by the Crown in the right of Canada in the Yukon be transferred to the Crown in the right of the territory in the same way it is held in the provinces.

How different is that resolution from the official stand of the Yukon Liberal party? Let me read the resolution of the Yukon Liberal party which was held out to the electorate during the last election. It reads:

WHEREAS all indications point to a period of development in the Yukon Territory greater and more sustained than that of the Gold Rush;

I agree, as I am sure the minister does.

AND WHEREAS as a consequence of that development it is expected that the population of the Yukon will increase substantially;

It has. It is far greater than DBS has led the minister to believe it is. The DBS figure is 16,000 and the minister uses the figure 18,000. I suggest to the minister the figure is closer to 25,000 now. I suggest also that if the minister were really up-to-date in respect of the Yukon—I am sure he cannot live there—and were properly informed by the officials, he would know this. His departmental officials have no sympathy with this move because if it were adopted they would be out of a job eventually, and so far as we are concerned the quicker the better.

The minister has said that great strides have been made toward progressing to self-government in the Northwest Territories, but

[Mr. Nielsen.]

all that has happened has been that masses of civil servants have been moved from Ottawa to Yellowknife.

Mr. Orange: You should get your facts right.

Mr. Nielsen: The hon. member says I should get my facts right. I know that quite a number of these civil servants refused to go there because they did not want to live in that area. Otherwise, there has just been a transference of bureaucracy from Ottawa to Yellowknife. Duncan Pride, one of the members of the council—I do not know which area he represents—made a speech in Edmonton last night in which he called for the resignation of the minister. That indicates what the feeling is in the territories.

Let me read this:

AND WHEREAS it is recognized and desirable that the population of the Yukon Territory has and will continue to assume permanency and stability;

It has. The minister has been there and has seen some of our residential areas. He has also seen the growth of the business community. Another resolution reads as follows:

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that the problems of government and administration attendant upon this expansion pose special problems;

You bet they do!

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that, at present, the Yukon Territory should not assume provincial status, but that its people must be afforded a greater share of responsibility in Yukon affairs and a more effective voice in determining the destiny of Yukoners, as is the right of all free people everywhere;

That is a sentiment in which I am sure all of us concur. I shall continue to read from page 6:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The membership of the Council of the Yukon Territory be increased to 15.

What has the Yukon council requested? Precisely what the Liberal association recommends.

2. That the Governor in Council appoint on the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Territorial Council of the Yukon Territory, a member of the said council to be chief executive of the Territory—

We have not gone that far.

—and who will hold and discharge all the present responsibilities and duties of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.

The request of the council falls far short of this Liberal resolution. It goes on to read: