

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

from coming into the House and saying, "Here are the regulations. Admittedly, they cannot become law until the bill has become law. We cannot promulgate them, we cannot enact them, but here they are. As an inducement to persuade members that this is a good bill with good clauses in it, here are the types of regulations we propose to enact." I think it is a very poor excuse to say that it is not right, it is not proper to indicate what the regulations are until the bill has been passed. That is utter nonsense. We have had too much of it.

We have the situation where I have asked the minister in this House, where the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) has asked the minister, where the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) has asked the minister, what about the land claims of people in the northern part of Canada, in particular the people in northern Quebec but also the people in the other northern territories? What is going to be done about the honest, legitimate claims these people have to the lands and resources of this great country? What compensation will be offered to them for the taking of those lands and resources? We all know that during the latter part of the last century and the early part of this century commissioners were sent to the area between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains to obtain treaties from the Indian people in order to secure the title of the government and the people of Canada to these lands. These treaties were accompanied by certain undertakings made by the commissioners on behalf of the people of Canada. I am not going to get into the question of the extent to which these treaties have been broken, although we all know that they were broken. Absolutely nothing has been done since then, as far as the native people in the Northwest Territories are concerned, save some in the Mackenzie River area.

• (5:20 p.m.)

Just the other day I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development about the people in Quebec. I am not using this as an illustration but it is the sort of thing we hear when we speak of these great promises. The minister replied that he would see that this question got to the commissioner who has been established under the appropriate legislation to inquire into the matter. It appears that the commissioner reports to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and because he was not here I asked the Acting Prime

Minister. He said he did not know anything about the matter but would look into it.

At that time the hon. member for Skeena pointed out that under the terms of reference there is absolutely no authority for the commissioner to deal with treaty rights in the Northwest Territories or Quebec or to deal with the question of claims of Indians and Eskimos to compensation for the lands and resources taken by the people and the governments of Canada. This is the kind of thing which fails to persuade me that this government is sincere in its intention to do something for the people of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, I have looked at a number of the recommendations of the Carrothers Commission report. It is absolutely incorrect for the Minister of Justice—although he did restrict himself to questions dealing with the administration of justice in the territories—or the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to suggest that there has been any substantial compliance with the major recommendations of this report.

Where, Mr. Speaker, is the executive council? In this bill there is provision for the appointment of certain people to act, but there is no legislative acceptance of the principle of an executive council with specific duties, with specific individuals charged with the administration of certain areas of government responsibility. The Carrothers Commission strongly suggested that in this halfway-house between territorial status and provincial status the name of the legislative body should be changed to "legislative assembly." This has been requested, and what harm would it have done? Why should not the Council of the Northwest Territories be the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, and the Council of the Yukon be the Legislative Assembly of the Yukon?

What about the question of economic development? This is a very sad, difficult and serious problem. In a press release dated March 31, 1970, the minister stated with some pride:

The territorial administration will have grown from less than 100 persons when it moved to Yellowknife in 1967 to about 1,700 after the eastern Arctic transfer.

I say "shades of Parkinson" when I read that, Mr. Speaker. In any event, of the non-Indian and non-Eskimo people in the Northwest Territories 1,700 plus their wives and dependents are government people and a very substantial number are employed by large