

Supply—Indian Affairs

doubt very much that he will have the opportunity to express any views on it at this stage, but I should like him to consider it for the future.

During the course of our discussion of his estimates I hope we will hear from the minister with regard to adult education. I say this because I am afraid that the older generation of northern peoples will be lost in the face of the technological changes which are coming to them inevitably and over which they have no control but with which they must live. We cannot forget about our older people. I now that in terms of our Eskimo housing program adult education plays a great and significant role. I would ask the minister to do what he can to strengthen adult education, in my opinion probably the most important aspect of the total educational system.

I hope that the minister will also be able to give us some idea about school construction, particularly in the major centres such as Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Aklavik and Frobisher Bay. I hope the minister will be able to provide us with some explanation of the problems of northern construction, not the quality of it but the timing. I was in Providence, a delightful little community on the Mackenzie River, toward the end of August where plans have been in the mill for the last two years to build a two-classroom school. Tenders were called early in the year but for some reason or other the contractor could not get around to building the school in time for opening on September 1. Had he met his commitments in accordance with the tender called the school would have been ready. It was a small construction job which he could have completed in a very short time.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, the roads program is an exciting one as far as northerners are concerned. This year we saw completion of the highway to Fort Smith. This particular section of the road is one for which the people of Fort Smith are very grateful to this government. It was cancelled in 1962 but action was commenced in 1964 to complete the road and the department was able to find sufficient funds to complete the program one year ahead of time. However, I should like to hear from the minister about programs for the coming years. I should also like to suggest to him that in the development of a roads program for the future consultation be had not only with the government agencies concerned but with the private sectors of the community, particularly the mining industry. It seems to me that this is one area in which the private

[Mr. Orange.]

sector must be consulted; otherwise the ideas and views in connection therewith are those of the civil service alone.

There are many other items I should mention. For example, with regard to housing Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is now moving into the north and for this we express our appreciation. We think it is about time it did so. I have seen many squalid communities in the north. One serious problem with regard to Indian housing is—

The Chairman: Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, could we not agree to allow the hon. member to finish his remarks?

The Chairman: Is it agreed that the committee will allow the hon. member to continue his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Orange: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the members of the committee. I visited communities such as Providence during the summer months and in the months of September, October and early November of last year and I found the housing conditions of the people living in these communities pretty deplorable. They were squalid. We appreciate that the new Indian housing program will improve these conditions, but in the meantime what is to happen to the people living in these substandard houses?

I inquired into this matter, Mr. Chairman, and this is what I was told. Because of the changes announced earlier, Indian affairs in the Northwest Territories are now the responsibility of what we commonly refer to as northern affairs, and I was told that as a result money for the repair and maintenance of Indian housing was not available. The minister knows my views on this subject and I say to him, for heaven's sake to do something for these people, so that those who do not move into new houses will at least live in warm and dry quarters and can keep their children warm and dry. This is an investment in humanity and in the Canadian people.

• (5:10 p.m.)

I became concerned about the development of electrical power supply in the north. Again speaking of Indian housing, in the community of Fort Rae 25 homes were built this year. In