

*Yukon and N.W.T. Government*

right here in Canada, some of which are embodied within the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. These problems require great understanding and sensitivity if we are to reach adequate solutions.

The fact is that in many ways we do have a colonial-type administration in these areas. We find that very often the practice of the government has been to reluctantly grant concessions to representations from the north. These concessions often are made as a result of certain pressures. They are tossed out, I might say, as crumbs to appease the restless population. Possibly that is too strong a term; it might be better to say they are tossed out in a fashion which is somewhat less than generous. Unfortunately, the minister, who often I believe tries his best to do a good job and tries to wrestle with the problems he faces, seems to have a tendency to speak in the same vein as an old-time colonial governor.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I think that if one looks at the speeches he made in Yellowknife and Whitehorse recently, one will see a number of illustrations of this tendency. These may be small examples; nevertheless, I think they reflect a somewhat unfortunate attitude and approach to northern problems which I think is bound to give rise to a certain amount of resentment and hostility among the people in that part of Canada.

When I look at the minister's remarks at Yellowknife, for instance, I see he states that the government has two major objectives regarding the north. He goes on to describe some of his thoughts in terms of what the government envisages as being good for the north, and what it has decided. He goes on to state, in dealing with such things as the management and ownership of natural resources in the future:

—and this conclusion I support strongly both for the present and the preseeable future—

I will have something to say about that remark later. When one turns to page 3 of his address to the Territorial Council, one notes that the minister put forward a number of points every one of which starts with the pronoun "I". There is a continual repetition of the pronoun "I". Again I suggest that this is a reflection of an attitude which needs to be changed.

**Mr. Nielsen:** L'état c'est moi.

**Mr. Burton:** On page 4 of the minister's speech which was distributed to members, he takes note of other recommendations that were made and says:

The Commissioner and I have considered this recommendation.

How much more patronizing can one get? No one questions the existence of formidable and serious problems in the north involving the administration of the government and the development of adequate policies. There are a great many difficulties in this regard. We also have a great many problems involving the peoples of the north because of the great diversity of cultures, skills, education and understanding.

We also have economic problems to consider in the north. In many cases the costs of economic activity are higher there than they are in other regions of Canada and other parts of the world. Transportation costs in taking products to market and bringing in supplies, materials and services, also add greatly to the cost structure. In addition, the physical environment of the north itself poses a formidable problem in developing a public policy, for so many aspects of life exist on a frail and precarious basis. All together these create problems which are of concern to all of us and which we must take into account. The question is how to approach the matter.

I have already pointed out the minister's patronizing, condescending or concessionary approach to northern problems and to the representations and aspirations of the northern people. I suggest that a positive approach is required, one that includes flexibility because, after all, future events, particularly in the north, are very often unpredictable and therefore flexibility is required. But it seems to me that we need to develop a positive approach which sets out to achieve certain fundamental objectives, not in a haphazard, come-as-it-may or some far-off-distant-horizon type of objective but rather an approach which requires a planned and scheduled operation. This involves the determination of objectives and of steps required to reach those objectives, and a determination of programs which need to be carried out to enable the north to take the steps necessary to reach these objectives. We also need to set out a scheduled program which takes into account both time and functional developments.

The Carrothers Commission, to which reference has already been made today, set out some of the immediate objectives for government in the north. My colleague, the hon.