

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

a great contribution to the progress of the Yukon during his tenure of office. Unfortunately, he refused to accept reappointment because he found it impossible to carry on with the reins of government some 3,000 miles away in Ottawa. I am paraphrasing, Mr. Speaker, rather than giving the direct quotation.

• (3:00 p.m.)

That is the essence of the problem, but I will not spend too much time underscoring what should be obvious to those who are closely associated with the problems of northern development. It becomes harder to accept because during the period when there was great development in the territories they were promised that by centennial year, 1967, both territories would be afforded a considerable degree of autonomy and responsible government.

With regard to my own province of Manitoba, I recall reading in the discussions that led to Manitoba entering confederation—Manitoba being what we consider the keystone province in confederation—the arguments used by the federal government of the day. They were similar to those now being used, namely, that the financial and population resources of the area were not sufficient to warrant a move away from colonialism and toward greater independence. I remind the minister that when Manitoba entered confederation in 1870, only 25,000 people lived in the province.

Mr. Nielsen: It contained 1,051 voting people.

Mr. Dinsdale: It contained only 1,051 voting people, as the hon. member from the Yukon says. We failed to grasp the argument to which I have alluded. It was alleged that even if Canada were to be united from sea to sea, the provinces were barren, fruitless, subject to the chill blasts of the Arctic winter and would never be any use for economic purposes. The matter was summed-up in the famous quotation of the Macdonald era. When the Macdonald government decided to extend the Canadian Pacific Railway from sea to sea the liberal opposition said that the railway would not earn enough to even pay for its axle-grease; that it would be a railway running from wigwam to wigwam. This reminds one of the latterday Liberal "igloo to igloo" statement. I do not raise this matter of Manitoba because of personal or provincial pride; I raise it because a minister from Manitoba in this cabinet has in a speech put the situation

much more effectively than I could. He was speaking to the Provincial Liberal Association of Manitoba last week end. I quote from the *Winnipeg Tribune* of November 17, 1969:

Federal Supply Minister Jim Richardson has made it clear western Canadians—

All one needs to do is substitute "north" for "west" and "northern Canadian" for "western Canadian", and the article will have equal application. I continue reading from the quotation:

—will not tolerate decision-making in Ottawa which denies the west—

Again, substitute "north".

—an equal partnership within Confederation.

In a strong speech to delegates attending the annual meeting of the Manitoba Liberal Party Sunday, Mr. Richardson warned that growth of eastern Canada at the expense of the western region must be brought to an end.

"The greatest single change required is that western Canadians—

Again, substitute "northern Canadians".

—must have more say, more control and more influence over this great western region—

Substitute "northern region".

—which they toil to build," the minister said.

It is an excellent statement. I shall invite the minister to come over to this side of the House with the parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Orange: But we shall have no party left.

Mr. Dinsdale: I continue quoting:

"We should not forget that westerners"—

Again, please substitute "northerners".

—did not participate in the Confederation debates in the 1880s which resulted in the structures which have guided Canada through her first century." Mr. Richardson reminded.

"We cannot afford to be absent and we don't intend to be absent from the decision-making process which is now charting Canada's course into her second century."

The article goes on at length. The minister spoke to the Liberal Party as I would speak to the Liberal Party—kindly. I continue quoting:

"I want to see the Liberal Party become the champion of the west,"—

Make that "north".

—just as it has become the champion of French-speaking Canadians," he said.

"It is only in this way, by endorsing policies that are meaningful for the west"—