

*The Address—Mr. Orange*

Extensive oil and gas exploration is also taking place in the Canadian north, arousing the same nagging worries there. We look to government to prevent a disaster which could occur without proper planning and research. One proposal is to take oil from the Canadian Arctic by tanker. On two occasions the American supertanker, the *Manhattan*, has tested the Arctic ice. In fairness we must recognize that this ship was not built for that purpose. It was only reinforced against ice.

At this stage, Mr. Speaker, knowing the problems connected with Arctic ice, particularly in winter months, the problems of darkness and the problems of wind, I say that until such time as the government can be absolutely assured there is no possibility of oil spills from tankers, Canada must close the Northwest Passage to oil tankers. This is not to say that experimental trips such as those of the *Manhattan* were not useful. We discovered that in certain parts of the Arctic, particularly beyond the Northwest Passage, big tankers and other ships can be sailed without danger for most of the year. We have discovered that some of the minerals to be found in the eastern part of the Arctic islands may be transported south by large ships. Massive iron ore deposits, which were first discovered five or six years ago along the Mary River, have been left sitting there waiting the resolution of a number of problems, not the least of which was the transportation problem. As a result of the voyage of the *Manhattan*, it now appears there is a possibility that large ships can go through the new ice, ice formed during the course of one year. A ship can go through this ice without danger to the ship or to the environment, at the same time providing economic opportunity for Canada, in particular the Eskimo people of the eastern Arctic.

● (4:30 p.m.)

In the course of the growth of the north one of the most encouraging signs for Canadians, and indeed all people in North America, has been the interest in tourism. I am not referring to someone leaving a large city early in the morning and arriving at an isolated, comfortable fishing camp to spend a week at substantial cost. These camps are for a particular group of people. I am talking about the tourist who will travel, with a trailer hitched to the back of his car, up the Alaskan highway or the Mackenzie highway to visit the north that he has only read and heard about. We think more and more people will travel to the north by automobile, in addition to the primary means of transportation, air travel. The communities along our highways are reacting to these visitors. They help our economy. The northern people are proud to show their communities.

In many respects, Mr. Speaker, the infrastructure of northern development has been built. Most of our young people now attend school. As a result of the massive building program during the last five years, new homes are now available to most people of the north. Economic development is reaching the point where there is greater participation on the part of those who were born and continue to live in the northern communities. However, we must ask ourselves, where do we go from here?

[Mr. Orange.]

Last year the government of Canada made a number of major decisions regarding northern development. The Department of National Defence has implemented a program to establish an Arctic headquarters. This is based primarily on sovereignty. For the time being, this headquarters will be located in Yellowknife. Armed Forces personnel will be scattered through the north for varying periods of time. The Armed Forces have a number of Arctic training projects covering construction, living in the Arctic, and other matters.

The Department of Justice has moved closer toward giving responsibility for justice to the territorial governments. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) has announced the establishment of an Arctic administration to be located in the north. I understand this will be a headquarters for the administration of all forms of Arctic transportation. The Department of Communications, through the Telestat operation, will improve communications for the people of the north.

Bearing all this in mind, I suggest to the government that it is time to develop a plan for the north. I am concerned when I see the various departments of government each working in its own direction. Although they are working with concern and interest, they are not necessarily working as closely as they might with sister departments of government and the territorial governments.

I like to think there is some means whereby planning might be done in advance, with a series of priorities established for the use of the resources, the lands, and to ensure that there is participation on the part of human resources, the people of the north. This could be accomplished by a planning council, strengthening the advisory committee on northern development, a white paper or task force. I am not sure what the answer is.

I strongly believe it is time for this government to compile a total plan, a design for the development of the northland of Canada. We must consider the criterion for investment in the Canadian north as well as the question of ownership of land and the use, either multiple or exclusive. When I say land, I am talking about conservation of areas and the development of proper planning for communities.

We must consider the human resources of the north to determine if the programs to this point have been satisfactory and meet the needs. Does the education program which has been developed really meet the needs of the people, the old and the young? We must look at the present social development programs to see if the people who are participating in these programs understand them. Do these people understand that they are on the threshold of great changes? Although these changes may have started 15 years ago, they are now being escalated. We must also determine the system of government that is best for the Canadian north. Do the territorial governments have enough power and strength to carry out those things which affect the quality of life of the northerner? What is happening with respect to the development of government?