

*Yukon Minerals Act*

**Mr. Nielsen:** The minister does not know a point of order from an objection to the remarks I am making. Speak to Mr. Hunt. Speak to the other officials who went up there to speak to the Yukon Chamber of Mines. Look at the pictures on the front page of the *Whitehorse Star*, where the placards are displayed for all to see. The Yukon Chamber of Mines organized a demonstration for the specific purpose of bringing home to the minister and his officials the fact that this bill was objectionable.

The government speaks of government by the people, and the minister knows that 95 per cent of the people in the Yukon object to this bill. Yet he comes to this House and attempts to put across the idea that all is rosy.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Why doesn't he have a plebiscite if he thinks this is right?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Plebiscites are not their way of doing things. They are not the Prime Minister's way. He doesn't even consult his cabinet on important decisions.

Then, the minister speaks about licences and fees. I mention just in passing what is now happening in the Yukon under a broad and sweeping change in the licensing and fees provisions of local ordinances, with decisions made in Ottawa funnelled down to the lackey of the minister and funnelled through him to the other two lackeys that he has made of two elected representatives of the people, all under his so-called governmental reform. That is precisely what they are.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, fuddle duddle.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The minister says that these land use regulations will have a great effect in the Yukon. Let me tell hon. members that one of the sections in those land use regulations will prevent any of you from driving your automobile, if it weighs over 2,000 pounds, off a public highway and along a non-public trail in the bush. What automobile today, even if it is a little jeep—

**Mr. Sulatycky:** It's a damned good regulation.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It's a good regulation, some member in the back says. I wonder if he would identify himself.

**Mr. Sulatycky:** Keep talking.

**Mr. Nielsen:** No, he won't identify himself. I invite him to come to the Yukon, and I invite him to try to get off the public highway in a vehicle that weighs less than 2,000 pounds, unless of course he has a bicycle. Now, if the hon. member wishes to stand up and identify himself he may ask a question.

**Mr. Osler:** He has been here as long as you.

• (3:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Nielsen:** The hon. member may ask how I get away from the Yukon. Every day I have been receiving objections from the Yukon Chamber of Mines, from prospectors and others, giving me their complaints and urging me to come down here and lay them before the minister. I am not going to say that the minister, knowing I am back there for that purpose, decided to smuggle this bill in

[Mr. Chrétien.]

today. I am not going to say that; I would not make such a charge. The minister is a good friend of mine and he explained that the bill was ordinarily to come up—

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member implies that this bill was smuggled in, and he knows this is not so. Full notice was given and it was arranged that this debate would take place when he was here. There was full understanding with the House leaders that there would be no debate unless the hon. member were present. The implication is most unfair.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nielsen:** I said I was not going to say it, didn't I?

**Mr. Francis:** I leave it to the readers of *Hansard*.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Except for the last part of the government whip's statement, I agree with him. I said I was not going to say anything like that which I did say! The minister says the regulations are intended to preserve the delicate ecology of the north. If the regulations are passed in their present form you will not be able to wear a pair of crampons up the mountain or go across the golf course wearing golf shoes, in case you damage the permafrost. The regulations are too tight. The minister would be aware of the reaction if he had listened when he was in the Yukon. Maybe he was overwhelmed by the hospitality.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is willing to let me comment on that, the regulations were discussed with the people of the Yukon when I met them. I will not apologize for trying to protect the environment of the north. The hon. member should read the other parts of the statement I made recently in Whitehouse to the effect that we should not be so preoccupied with ecological balance as to inhibit development. We can apply good Liberal judgment in this matter and we will have a policy that will not promote either extreme.

**Mr. Nielsen:** That is correct! I cannot find any fault with what the minister says. However, the regulations are not for the purpose of conservation, nor is this bill for the purpose of conservation. Both of these invidious pieces of legislation are for the purpose of preservation at the expense of development and progress in the mining industry. There is no reason why the two cannot live side by side and hand in hand—but not this way. Conservation yes, but preservation never!

One does not want to create, as is the feeling in the Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta, one huge national park out of the Yukon. There is too much of value, not only to Yukoners but to all Canadians, to do that. We certainly do not want the kind of situation that exists in the park that is in my hon. friend's riding in Banff.

**Mr. Chrétien:** We have such a good policy in the park that the Liberal member, who is a very good member, was elected in Rocky Mountain in 1968.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Twenty-six per cent of the vote.