

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

to be talking to someone on the telephone and inquired. I might say it was also snowing in Yarmouth. I do not know whether it was at seven o'clock this evening. I am speaking just as one elected member of parliament when I say quite non-politically that I think this is a deplorable failure on the part of the C.B.C. I join with the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings in a non-partisan assault on this deficiency—if you can assault a deficiency—in the C.B.C.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Chairman, I have one question I should like to ask the minister, if I may, if now is the time to do so. I should have got it in before but I allowed vote 15 to pass. Could he tell us whether the interpreter staff is included with the translation staff in the increase in salary which he mentioned earlier today?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** As long as this is not regarded as a precedent, because I do not think the C.B.C. estimates have passed yet, I can tell the hon. member that they are included, I am glad to say. Perhaps I might even give one bit of gratuitous information. Thanks to a number of questions which have been asked in the house during the session I get a steady stream of letters now from people who want to be both interpreters and translators. I am sending them on, not to the C.B.C. but to the civil service commission, and I hope they are all as well qualified as they seem to be.

**Mr. Peters:** Could the minister indicate the size of the increase?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Thanks to my parliamentary secretary, the Minister of Justice, I am told it is \$300 for the lower grades, \$800 for the higher grades, retroactive to July 1.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, we have been hearing many rumours of cabinet shifts. We did not know that this would be one.

Item agreed to.

**The Chairman:** This completes the estimates of the Secretary of State.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I should like to be permitted to thank hon. members on both sides for being kind to me and for failing, in the case of one or two members, to recall that I was not quite so kind when I was sitting over there.

**Mr. Churchill:** We made quite an effort.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I shall be pleased to act for the minister of northern affairs, as was agreed when the item was held at the request

of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre so that the hon. member for Yukon may make a speech.

## NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

Northern administration branch—

75. Branch administration including authority to make recoverable advances for services performed on behalf of the governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory, \$1,092,800.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I should like to thank the committee for having held this item for me. I was busy in a house committee when these estimates were being discussed and for that reason I could not be here. I do not intend to speak at length. I had prepared a much longer speech but I will await another occasion before making it. I could be controversial in the course of my remarks and I could be extremely partisan if I wished, but I know that the committee does not wish to concern itself tonight with arguments of a philosophical kind.

I am sorry the minister is not here, because there were a great many matters which I wanted to draw to his attention. I will simply place on record some of the more important matters of concern to the Yukon so that he can read them when he returns to Ottawa. First, and most important, is the taking over of the Alaska highway by the Department of Public Works. There is a resolution in the 1963-64 statement of policy by the Canadian chamber of commerce, to be found at page 57, which calls for the paving of the Alaska highway and a similar resolution has been passed in the home province of the minister by the British Columbia chamber of commerce. There is a general policy resolution passed in 1963-64 which also calls for the paving of this highway. Mr. Sinclair, when he was on the cabinet benches of the Liberal government prior to 1957, on the occasion of a visit he made to the Yukon, promised that the highway would be paved and more recently the present Prime Minister while he was in the Yukon during the 1962 campaign certainly left the impression, if he did not directly promise, that the highway would be paved if a Liberal government was elected. I merely draw attention to these promises in the hope that they will be fulfilled by the government and that the paving program will be commenced without undue delay. I am happy to see the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his place tonight because he, I am sure, will be aware of any negotiations which are being conducted or which are to be conducted with the United States for a joint paving program under which costs would be shared.

There is another matter which I wish to raise. It has to do with the Haines road and