

Yukon Minerals Act

idea interested me very much. He described some testing in regard to pipelines, and mentioned mining for diamonds and gold and drilling for oil. He described support services such as agriculture in the north, speaking particularly of reindeer herds which supply meat for people in the mining camps. Surely, it would be worth while for the committee to make a trip to northern Siberia in order to study what has been done there. I do not think the minister or members of the committee have been able to persuade the government to let them go. Should they be able to do so, I am sure there would be no lack of volunteers from this side of the House to accompany them. In so far as this bill is concerned, I think we should certainly make a trip to the north to hear what the people there think about it.

• (4:50 p.m.)

With regard to ownership in the north, I should like to make the brief comment that, in developing mines in the north beyond the financial capacity of Canadian private enterprise, rather than introduce foreign capital we should adopt the Panarctic approach. Further, if we want to construct smelters or refineries and things of that kind, we should turn to the Canada Development Corporation for financing. After all, why ship out of the country minerals in unprocessed form if we can process them at home? I suggest here is a logical place for the Canada Development Corporation to assist in Canadian development. Finally, we should show particular concern for the natives of the north. We should educate them so that they can contribute to northern development and find employment in the mining of Yukon minerals.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Order. I must point out to the House that if the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) now takes the floor, that will bring the debate to an end. Is there agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*English*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take too much time since there will be occasion to debate the bill at committee stage after it has been referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

May I thank all hon. members who have participated in the debate, which I think has been a good one. Some hon. members wanted to raise other problems that have arisen in the past, such as the problems facing our native peoples. I am sorry we cannot have a full discussion of those problems, but I would say that I think all hon. members, certainly those on this side of the House, will agree that never before has the federal government entered into a dialogue with the native population of Canada. We have tried to seek their advice concerning the many measures we are proposing, especially in the field of employment in the north. We started a campaign two years ago to try to persuade developers in the north to give priority to the employment of the native popula-

tion. This was evident from the guidelines we issued last August which stated that, if pipelines are constructed in the north, not only at the construction stage but at the operation stage the native people should be fully and permanently employed.

We very strongly believe that if we give our native people the skills required they will make very good employees and be very reliable. There is one benefit we will all gain from their working in the north, and that is that they will have no wish to come south. They are happy to live in the north because that is their country. The government and I realize this, and it is why we are not shy about speaking of what we have done and are planning to do for our native people.

Now is not the time to discuss this because this bill deals with mineral development in the Yukon. It is not a perfect bill, of course, and I said in my speech that we would make some changes at the committee stage. People in the north are concerned about the level of royalties, and I did say that we would make some adjustments there. I think all hon. members will agree that we must make sure that the royalties we receive from the mines in the north are not higher in amount than those received in British Columbia. But I repeat: We are going to make sure that revenue from royalties from mines in the Yukon received by the government will be lower than revenues received by the provincial administration of B.C. In this regard, I am going to present an amendment that will reflect the wishes of the House.

As far as the Canadian participation clause is concerned, I do not apologize for forcing industry in the north to accept investment from Canadians. This is the only industry in the Yukon under federal administration to which a clause of this sort does not apply. Pending a general review of policy on Canadian participation; we are going to put this proposal forward. I do not think development of the Yukon will suffer. At the same time, I think it is right that Canadians be allowed to participate in northern development if they so wish.

Mr. Nielsen: They can do so now.

Mr. Chrétien: If a United States company develops a mine in the Yukon at the present time, it can refuse Canadian participation. We are trying to get such concerns to list their stocks on the Canadian market. In that event, any Canadian could buy shares in that company.

I was glad to hear the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) make a speech. The only thing that annoyed me a little was that he visited Alaska before he visited Canada. He should have visited the Canadian north before making that speech.

Mr. Nielsen: He has been to the north.

Mr. Chrétien: He went during the last campaign; he went to the Northwest Territories. I think he should have visited the Canadian north first, and I am glad he is planning to do that. I am only sorry he did not do it before.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The impression is being left by the minister that