

Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts

occupy about 90 per cent of the territories north of 60. We see world neighbourhood in a different way. We see the problem of water and pollution, the problem of wildlife and the problem of resource development in a different way.

I hope to be able to get up to the Northwest Territories in this centennial year. As I said earlier, I had an opportunity of being there on business on behalf of the Department of Justice last year, and then during the summer I went with my good friend, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange), on a fishing trip at Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake and at Coppermine during our holidays. I hope centennial year will give me another legitimate reason to be there.

To me this bill represents continued progress toward responsible government, toward eventual self-government, toward a day when northerners will be governed by northerners. I have always thought that the Department of Northern affairs, as it used to be called, now the Department of Northern Development, will be doing a good job if it puts itself out of a job. The faster it puts itself out of a job, the better a job it will be doing. That, Mr. Speaker, is my contribution this afternoon.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): May I direct a question to the minister before he formally concludes his remarks and his seat? I forget who it was who said you can judge the extent of a civilization by looking into its prisons. Part of the purpose of this bill is to give to the commissioner in council authority to make regulations with respect to public and reformatory prisons in and for the territories. Does the minister have any knowledge of what is conceived in this regard, what are the plans, for how many, where, what size and what cost? Can he also speak of the rehabilitative aspect?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I do not want to presume to speak on the behalf of the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith), but as mentioned in the bill there is to be a new correctional program administered by the territories. I think that might properly be a question which the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) would want to put to the minister at committee stage, but he is perfectly correct in pointing out that the establishment, maintenance and regulation of public and reformatory prisons in and for the territories by virtue of this bill are transferred to the territories. I think it would be perfectly relevant for him to put this question at committee stage.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I shall not keep the House too long on this matter but I feel that one or two things still need to be said. I was glad to hear those last words of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner), because for 12 or 13 years in this House I have been talking about the north, about what needs to be done there, about what can be done there, but saying sadly how little has been done there since the time, over a third of a century ago, that I first went into the Northwest Territories when Yellowknife was still a gleam in the eyes of some prospector.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The hon. member was there when he and I both had a gleam in our eyes from the spike marking the completion of the railway.

Mr. Baldwin: That reminds me that there was a brief flurry of activity during the years 1960 to 1962. But there still remains a feeling on the part of many people in the north that words are being spoken in Ottawa and are not being accompanied by actions. I am an eternal optimist. I hear these words and I hope that some day the actions will follow.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): They are right in front of your nose.

Mr. Baldwin: If I were living in the north, I would leave it right away because there is very little in the bill but promises. We have very promising ministers but, Mr. Speaker, this is the trouble we face. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) makes a speech in Winnipeg and then there is a period of ministerial gestation. After seven months have elapsed the minister and his advisers get together and they say, "You, sir, made a speech in Winnipeg"—actually, I think in this case the speech was made in November at both Yellowknife and Whitehorse—"and having made the speech it looks good, so let us follow it with a bill. In enacting the bill we will do as little as we can, but we will in fact do something which will indicate that the speech you made seven months ago is now going to be consummated, but to a very limited extent."

A short while ago in this House we were talking about the regulations which are to flow from the enactment of the clauses of the bill dealing with the Territorial Lands Act. Despite what the Minister of Justice said, there is no reason at all, there is no rule of practice or of precedent, no tradition which prohibits the government and the minister