

Supply—Northern Affairs

local population to construct their own homes according to their ability to pay for them.

As to the specific number of homes that will be required, it is hard to make an accurate estimate because changes are taking place so rapidly in the north as people settle in the new communities; but it is estimated that over the next ten years some 11,700 units will be required. I believe that is accurate. I am speaking from memory and if I am incorrect I shall be happy to get in touch with the hon. member.

Mr. Robichaud: Does the minister realize that if the \$250,000 which was mentioned this afternoon in connection with the Arizona Charlie dance hall was added to this amount it would make possible between 700 and 800 new homes in this region?

Mr. Nielsen: Surely the hon. member is not following the precedent of his friends by criticizing the restoration of the Grand Palace theatre as part of the Dawson city celebrations? Does he think that the Dawson city festival is an unwise investment, or that it will not attract tourist traffic to the north?

Mr. Pickersgill: Are we back to the twist, Mr. Chairman?

Item agreed to.

672. Loans to the government of the Yukon Territory (hereinafter called the "territory") in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with such terms and conditions as the governor in council may approve, to enable that government to make mortgage loans to residents of the territory for the purchase or construction of low cost houses in the territory; and to authorize the commissioner in council of the territory, notwithstanding anything in the Yukon Act, to make ordinances in respect of the repayment by the government of the territory of loans made to it pursuant to this vote and in respect of the lending of money to residents of the territory for the purchase or construction of houses in the territory and the taking of security therefor by way of mortgage, \$240,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the minister give us a short explanation of this?

Mr. Dinsdale: Again, this vote is to provide capital for housing construction in the Northwest Territories. A capital sum is provided on a loan basis to the government of the Yukon territory in respect to housing construction. The program outlined in the other vote was a program providing for a more elaborate style of home. This program can be described as follows: The National Housing Act was intended to encourage the development of low rental housing of a type which is desirable in southern Canada. In the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories, however, the high cost of construction, of heating and of water and sewer services places the National Housing Act standards well beyond the ability to pay

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

of the majority of residents. Even with the new second mortgage proposals approved by parliament with the further supplementary estimates in March, 1961, a very large number of residents of the northern territories cannot afford National Housing Act standards. Costs in the north will not likely permit these people to achieve these standards for probably 20 years and interim measures are required.

Special housing programs subsidized by the federal government are already under way for the Indians and Eskimos of the north. The latest estimates place the white population at 11,500 in the Yukon and at 9,400 in the Northwest Territories, a total of 21,100 people.

In addition to the Eskimo and Indian populations there are group centres in the north not taken care of by the program that we have already outlined so that this item No. 672 is designed to fill the gap among those special categories of northern settlers.

Item agreed to.

674. Loans to the government of the Northwest Territories (hereinafter called the "territories") in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with such terms and conditions as the governor in council may approve, to enable that government to make mortgage loans to residents of the territories for the purchase or construction of low cost houses in the territories; and to authorize the commissioner in council of the territories, notwithstanding anything in the Northwest Territories Act, to make ordinances in respect of the repayment by the government of the territories of loans made to it pursuant to this vote and in respect of the lending of money to residents of the territories for the purchase or construction of houses in the territories and the taking of security therefor by way of mortgage, \$240,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, this is quite a large item. Will the minister tell us what this is for?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, this vote provides for a loan of \$150,000 to the government of the Northwest Territories subject, of course—

Mr. Churchill: You are on the next one.

Mr. Dinsdale: Is this 674?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Dinsdale: The other vote, Mr. Chairman, covered the Yukon territory. This present vote, as it indicates, provides the same services for the Northwest Territories. There are two territories north of the sixtieth parallel, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon territory.

Mr. Garland: Could the minister give the committee any information as to the cost of housing on a per square foot basis in the area to which this vote relates?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the hon. gentleman is really serious when