

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

were generally critical of what they derisively called the vision of northern development.

Now of course, Mr. Chairman, everyone is jumping on the bandwagon. Though we heartily agree with it, the trouble is that there have been no new initiatives in recent years. I know hon. members opposite talk about road programs, but this is a regurgitation of the old program. They talk about educational programs. The educational program was set up so that by 1967 every young Canadian living north of 60 would have the opportunity to obtain an education. This program was laid down years ago. I do not know whether the target has been achieved in 1967.

I also point out that the mines which are now going into production are the result of programs and policies which are coming to an end. We must have new initiatives, a new vision—if I might use that word that was derided so vigorously, even violently and viciously, by my hon. friends of the Liberal party—otherwise, Mr. Chairman, we will have a vacuum. Some of my colleagues will say more in this respect during the course of the debate today.

Centennial year and Expo are occupying the minds of Canadians everywhere. We are all enthusiastically supporting these projects. Let us get some positive programs from the government rather than propaganda statements, so the vacuum that will inevitably be created after Expo and the centennial celebrations are over will be filled by new upsurge of development north of 60.

**Mr. Southam:** Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to make a few remarks in this debate on the estimates of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I want to thank the minister for his comprehensive review of some of the problems facing his department. I should also like to compliment the former minister of northern affairs, the hon. member for Brandon-Souris, who has just taken his seat and who has also given a more than comprehensive review of some of the problems that we must face up to.

I have had the honour of being a member of the committee on Indian affairs and northern development and its predecessor for several years, and I agree with the minister that his is a very important department. It also has its problems. It is a department that creates a certain amount of controversy, particularly over its activities relating to Indian affairs. The department has been creating

problems both for committees and for parliament over the years, and as the minister says will continue to do so for several generations yet.

• (12:50 p.m.)

Not many in Canada are familiar with the great northern part of this country. I, with other members of the committee, was fortunate last year in having the privilege of flying into the Canadian northland and being able to survey about 40 per cent of Canada's land mass, and in being able to have a first hand look at the problems facing the citizens of the area—and I am thinking of the Eskimos, Indians and whites. The members of the committee agreed generally about what needed to be done. What we saw was a revelation, and ever since I and my colleagues on the committee have discussed generally the developments that should take place in the north.

After all, Canada is a country of pioneers; we still have the pioneering spirit, and the last frontier of this country is in the north. I was glad the minister admitted the importance of the roads to resources and the communications that the hon. member for Brandon-Souris referred to. Our party between 1957 and 1962 developed the roads to resources. The minister also referred to the Pine Point railway and the development at the end of that line that we had the privilege of seeing last year.

At the beginning of his remarks the minister referred to the national parks policy. As members of the committee know, I have been directly and intimately interested in this policy because my riding of Moose Mountain is in the centre of one of the most progressive and highly patronized provincial parks of Saskatchewan. It has been said that in Saskatchewan we live by bread alone, though in recent years with the development of our oil and potash resources the economy of our province has been revitalized. Another national park would give our people added incentive and another boost up the economic ladder.

I was glad to hear the minister say that the committee in that province has co-operated well with the national parks officials of Ottawa in the development of a second national park for our province. I do not know what the criteria will be for the establishment of the park, but for a long time I have advocated that the Moose Mountain area be considered seriously, for several reasons. Basically the area has become popular because of the