

Northwest Territories Act

consider giving the Northwest Territories and the Yukon the self-government they request and to which they are entitled according to the democratic principle of philosophy in the world. They want to have their own government instead of "taxation without representation".

We know that those territories are not inhabited only by illiterate Eskimos. We know that Canadians who are ready to assume their responsibilities live there also. For instance, I can well imagine the hon. member for Yukon as premier of the province of Yukon and the hon. member for the Northwest Territories as premier of a province which would not be called the Northwest Territories but something else.

Mr. Chairman, could we not set the house a goal? Could not the house agree to the holding next fall or winter of a referendum in those territories to find out what the inhabitants want and if they are willing to see the territories become provinces and assume the responsibilities that such a step entails?

Since there is no doubt that the answer would be positive and affirmative, we might set as our second goal to give Canada an anniversary present in 1967 by adding to it two new provinces: the Yukon and the Northwest.

I certainly do not feel qualified to set up the limits of those new provinces, but I think that, in general, we would be doing something constructive if we supported the objective mentioned a little earlier by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris, namely to give self-government to these territories in 1967.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I am making those remarks as an eastern Canadian who wants to contribute to the development of Canada by extending a hand to the Canadians in the north.

I will add a personal remark. It is possible that I suddenly developed a sentimental attachment, since I am now a shareholder in the symbolic company which the hon. member for Yukon is busy promoting. I thank him very much for sending me a very impressive certificate a few days ago. I repeat what I said a little earlier. As a lawyer presenting a case such as the one he has been presenting since yesterday, I think we should take our hats off to him and extend to him the co-operation that a Canadian of good will can give another Canadian of good will.

[Mr. Mongrain.]

• (2:00 p.m.)

[English]

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 13 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Chairman: Shall I report the bill?

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I just want to draw the attention of the committee to the facility with which the clauses of the bill have been passed during the minister's absence.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

YUKON ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING INDEMNITIES,
TRAVELLING EXPENSES, ETC.**

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 29, consideration of the motion of Mr. Laing for the second reading of Bill No. C-147, to amend the Yukon Act.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Surely the minister has a statement he wishes to make on second reading?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must advise the house that if the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not realize that. I went over the proceedings which have taken place so far in connection with the bill before us. The resolution stage is reported at page 2844 of *Hansard*. The second reading stage is reported at page 3338 of *Hansard*. There was a debate. Since then the minister has, I know, received representations from the Yukon legislative council either directly or through the commissioner asking in effect that the members of the council be heard on this bill.

I think it is essential that members of the house should appreciate the difference which exists between the system of government in the Northwest Territories and that which exists in the Yukon Territory. The Yukon has had a wholly elected council for many years. The council has seven members. It has no executive power, merely power to act in concert with the commissioner in the passage of legislation. It has no power to introduce money bills. In effect it is a rubberstamp. That is the term which its members use in referring to themselves.

The Yukon has a history of some 68 years of political development. Indeed, the Yukon