

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

you have citizens imposing taxes upon themselves but being denied by bureaucracy the right to spend those moneys.

I know that the reply is going to be that the council has to pass the spending estimates, but the minister knows as well as I do that no statement of this nature will override the fact that they cannot design and introduce fiscal policy, and there is the rub. This is what has to be cured. It was a tremendously backward step when the Northwest Territories Act was amended to take away that specific right which the people on the Northwest Territories had prior to the amendment, but this has been done.

As to the Carrothers report, Mr. Chairman, I find little argument with the mechanical recommendations. With those concerned with decentralization of governmental procedures and administration, moving them from a location in Ottawa to an on-site location in the Northwest Territories, there can be little quarrel. But where I do find myself differing from the recommendations of the Carrothers commission is with the so-called governmental reform of the executive. The recommendations in this regard do nothing more than perpetuate control in the hands of precisely those officials in whose hands it now resides. All the recommendations accomplish is a reshuffling. If the recommendations are adopted they give the commissioner, who is the minister's appointee by government order in council, the power to appoint the executive instead of its members being elected in accordance with the spirit of a truly democratic process.

I also ask the minister to turn from that subject to the question of what his plans are for the revision of the Yukon Quartz Mining Act. At a time when we are in the midst of an influx of investment capital which indicates a very promising return we are hampered by an antiquated quartz mining act which has been in the process of amendment now inter-departmentally for the last three years. The amendments which were proposed were refined almost three years ago but nothing has been done. The minister has received recently a request from the Yukon chamber of mines to effect an amendment to section 12 of that act. I should like his observations as to when we may expect the request of the Yukon chamber of mines to be acceded to.

I should also like to raise at this time when dealing with these estimates the question of the Alaska highway and the myriad reports which have been prepared, with yet another at hand.

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• (4:00 p.m.)

The report of the Sandford Research Institute gives the most pessimistic conclusions which are completely unjustified because they are based on inaccurate and for the most part untrue suppositions. In the Yukon we suspect that the only purpose of the Sandford report was to justify a further delay in the government coming to some kind of decision with respect to the paving of the highway. An engineering report was prepared by a department of the federal government and this report, excellently done, suggests five different alternatives with respect to highway improvement. What is the government's intention with respect to an improvement program? When do they intend to sit down with the various jurisdictions involved to arrive at some scheme for highway improvement?

What does the minister intend or what does the government of Canada intend to do with respect to the recent announcement by United Keno Hill Mines, an old mining company in the Yukon, that they will curtail production by June of next year? When the minister replied to a question of mine on the matter a few weeks ago he said he was optimistic that the pessimistic part of the announcement would not be justified. The fact remains that the announcement stands, and my information from mine officials is that only a caretaker will be on the spot in June next year.

I hope that the government, and particularly the minister, are taking interest in what is happening there. Four communities are directly involved and the total population affected is some 2,000 people. I have tried to come up with some kind of suggestion about this matter. Perhaps this whole question could be considered by the minister.

In most fields of skilled trade in Canada there are ample vocational training facilities. There are schools turning out welders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and, indeed, almost the whole spectrum of skilled trades. Yet there is an absence in Canada of an institution to train practical miners. This is one of the factors causing the difficulties of the mine I have mentioned which has a requirement of between 400 and 500 miners but can obtain only 50 to 70. When International Nickel at Thompson, Manitoba, has to advertise in Whitehorse newspapers for miners, a serious problem with respect to the shortage of skilled miners confronts Canada. I suggest to the minister that he might consider the possibility of establishing a school for miners at United Keno which was and presently is