

*Yukon and N.W.T. Government*

building the Pine Point Railway was unanimously opposed by the then Liberal opposition. We all know now that the Pine Point Railway has become that great transportation system which is the real catalyst in the tremendous upsurge that has taken place in the Great Slave Lake area of the Northwest Territories. This negative attitude was also involved in statements with respect to the roads resources program as being "roads from igloo to igloo". Unfortunately, the Liberal party was not able to bury that negativism when it assumed the responsibilities of office in 1963.

As has been demonstrated by the excellent speech of the member for the Yukon, and the statement by the member for the Northwest Territories, those of us who have had the privilege of travelling in the north know what has to be done. All we need now is to get on with the job. We do not need any more task forces or commissions to examine the problem; the problem has been examined to death. What we want at this stage of development in the north is government initiative with respect to the almost over-weening demand, the reasonable request and demand for greater autonomy and self-government in both the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

I am not going to take time to repeat the progress in this matter which has been cited by earlier speakers, but I do want to underscore that this is the essence of the need for development in the Northwest Territories at the present time. We have been following this subject in the House through questions for the last few days, ever since the minister made his two statements in the north. In reply to the supplementary question that I asked with respect to the resolution that had come out of the Yukon Territory—the resolution that was read in substantial part by the hon. member for the Yukon this afternoon—the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development—said:

Mr. Speaker, I went myself to the Yukon. I met the council members there and I invited them to dinner—

If I may interpolate, this seems to be a general gesture on the part of Liberal cabinet ministers. We had several invitations to dinner earlier today.

**Mr. Chrétien:** What is wrong with it?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The replies continues:

—when we parted they said that even though we sincerely disagree on some points, we could still be very good friends and we parted amicably.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

That is the end of the quotation, Mr. Speaker. It is what is known as the proverbial hospitality, only exceeded by western hospitality. Everybody is friendly.

**An hon. Member:** What about the east?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I am sure the east would compare very favourably, too, Mr. Speaker. Everybody in the north is overwhelmingly hospitable. No matter where you come from; good bad or indifferent, you are given a warm welcome to the northern territories. This just indicates that the minister does not really understand the essence of the problem and the desires and reasonable demands from the elected bodies in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory.

I think it is easy to understand why the demand is growing more vociferous at the present time. There has been a program of economic development for both territories, particularly since 1957, which has brought a substantial degree of growth and prosperity. This applies particularly in the Yukon Territory where schools, roads, airfields and all the infrastructure of national development have been proceeding over the past decade or so.

The hon. member who spoke for the Créditiste party referred to the desirability of getting Japanese capital to invest in the Yukon Territory. Well, Japanese capital is already there. Early in 1963 I made a trip to Japan. We also invited the Japanese Ambassador to the northern development conference in the Yukon Territory and, as a result of this interest, the New Imperial Mine has opened and the Anvil Mine is just getting under way in the Yukon. I am sure the hon. member for the Yukon would agree that these have been two of the most valuable infusions into the program of development in that territory. This development has already taken place.

I am not as intimately associated with these matters as I used to be, but I am impressed when I read articles by journalists who have travelled into the north. At one time the press used to be fairly negative on the prospects of the northern vision, but now they refer to the rush of tourists into the territories and the signs of development evident on all sides. I believe this is one of the reasons why the elected representatives of these territories have become so strong in their demands for greater autonomy at the present time.

Reference was made to Commissioner Gordon Cameron, who was appointed because he was truly representative of the people of the Yukon Territory. Gordon Cameron made