

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

Territories council similar to that of the Yukon where the commissioner is in a sense, separate from the departmental administration, they will not hesitate in making their views known. Northerners have a peculiar habit of making their views known quite forcibly and, I must say, during the few years I have been associated with the situation, the department has acceded to all reasonable requests made by the residents of the area.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, if there is any one person who is more concerned with this problem than anyone else, I speak of the anomaly of the deputy minister of the department being the chairman of the council, I am sure it is the deputy minister himself, who has served in both capacities with great distinction and efficiency. It is true, as has been pointed out, that as the work of the department grows, greater responsibility is put on the deputy minister, and he acquires many more duties. Perhaps because of that fact, if for no other reason, the time will come, because of the burdens on the deputy minister, when a change will have to be made.

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure this is the right moment, or that we are dealing with the appropriate item, but I should like to direct some questions to the minister regarding the development of the roads to resources program, in so far as the Yukon and Northwest Territories are concerned. With your permission I shall put them now.

I should like to ask the minister if he can give figures regarding the expenditures to date, in respect of this program, in so far as the areas I have mentioned are concerned. I should also like to ask him what the maximum expenditures are, as envisaged in this program, and the amount of expenditure under the program which has already been committed.

I should also like to ask the minister for information in regard to the mileage of roads now under construction, and the total program in terms of mileage which has been agreed to by the government. Perhaps the minister could deal with those questions now.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Chairman, before proceeding to answer the questions of the Leader of the Opposition, I should perhaps say a final word regarding the subject raised by the hon. member for Port Arthur, and endorse what has been said in this respect by the hon. member for the Yukon and the Leader of the Opposition.

I feel sure we can depend on the council members themselves to recommend a change in regard to the commissioner when they feel it is due. We have, in the four elected

representatives of the territorial council, four vigorous spokesmen for the north. At the present time it is their opinion that the existing arrangement is the most useful and satisfactory one and, while there is a growing desire for independence, they have recommended that the present system of appointing members to the council be continued, because of the knowledge that these appointed council men have regarding the problems discussed by the territorial council.

The Leader of the Opposition has asked for rather detailed information on the roads to resources program in the territories. Perhaps I can break it down into the various categories that he requested. He asked for the total mileage of resources road construction in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory. The figures for the Northwest Territories are as follows. The total mileage is 1,384. Up to the end of 1960-61, 754 miles had been surveyed. Of this total, 503 miles have been cleared and 337 miles constructed.

In the Yukon Territory the total mileage is 900. Of that, 595 miles have been surveyed, 287 miles cleared and 237 miles constructed. The total for the territories is 2,284 miles. In addition, reconstruction of roads is under way in the Yukon Territory. This involves a total mileage of 458.

As for the expenditure represented by this construction, I can give the hon. member the totals between 1957 and 1961. For the Northwest Territories the total was \$15,999,000. The amount proposed for the Northwest Territories in 1961-62 is \$3.4 million. The amount required to complete the mileage contemplated is \$44.5 million. The total estimated expenditure in round figures is \$64 million.

For the Yukon Territory the amount spent up to 1961 is \$7.26 million. The amount proposed for the fiscal year under discussion is \$3.73 million. The amount required to complete the program is \$25.79 million. The estimated total is \$36.79 million.

The cost of the roads to be reconstructed in the Yukon Territory; up to the present time \$2.96 million has been expended. It is proposed to spend \$1.23 million in the current fiscal year. The amount required to complete the program is \$0.91 million, with a total expenditure of \$5.11 million. I do not know whether this covers all the information requested by the hon. member. I can give a further breakdown if he would like to have it.

**Mr. Pearson:** I think that is sufficient detail for my purposes, Mr. Chairman. It is interesting to compare these figures with the figures given by the Prime Minister himself