

Motions for Papers

2. There is no actual plan to rebuild the present structure of the centennial flame nor to build a new one.

JUSTICE THOMAS R. BERGER

Question No. 299—**Mr. Kaplan:**

Since Thomas R. Berger's retirement from the Bench, has he been paid any periodic amount *ex gratia* by the government?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): No.

[*English*]

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The questions as enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I ask that all remaining Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION (SHARE ISSUANCE AND SALE AUTHORIZATION) ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill C-125, an Act to enable the Northern Canada Power Commission to issue shares, to authorize the sale of those shares to the Government of the Northwest Territories, to repeal the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, and to provide for related matters, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Madam Speaker, I should like the indulgence of the House to take one or two minutes to speak to this very important piece of legislation respecting the Northern Canada Power Commission (Share Issuance and Sale Authorization) Act, which will transfer the assets and the authority of a very important utility to some 13,000 consumers and the duly elected legislative Government of the Northwest Territories.

In keeping with that I will conclude my remarks and ask that the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson), who is one of those 13,000 consumers and one of the electorate in the Northwest Territories, be allowed to continue debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, first I should like to thank the Minister for allowing me to make the remarks which he would have made this afternoon. I am going to sandwich them between a prefix and a suffix of my own making. I should also like to thank the opposition Parties for allowing the matter to be dealt with in an expeditious manner this afternoon.

My part in the process goes back some 15 years. This is how long we have been working on this transfer. This measure today restores my faith in the parliamentary process, the Canadian political process, in that this is taking place. It shows that in this country if one has good ideas, and if enough people are persuaded of the rightness of those ideas and work collectively to put them into effect, this can be accomplished.

The history goes back many years. One could perhaps single out 1973-74 as the start of the process when a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, under the chairmanship of Tom Butters who was then and is now the MLA for Inuvik, did a study of those areas of jurisdiction which at that time were under federal control but which normally were under provincial control. A list was made, and since that time we have made a lot of progress on transferring items from that list, from the responsibility of the federal Government to that of the territorial Government where they rightfully belong.

The idea of transferring the responsibility for electrical power was endorsed by the three political Parties within the Northwest Territories. If anything we were vying between ourselves as to who was the most forceful in recommending that the transfer take place. I guess the big difference between the Parties is that local Conservatives were listened to by the national association, and this might not have been the case with at least one of the other Parties.

Another major step came in 1980 when the report of the Prime Minister's special representative on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, the Hon. Bud Drury, was tabled in the House. It addressed itself to this very question and to many others.

Very good work was done on this question in the early 1980s by the House of Commons NCPC subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development chaired by our good friend, the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior (Mr. Penner). It is interesting to note that many of the recommendations in that report have been acted upon over a period of time, and the major recommendation is now being acted upon.