

Yukon Minerals Act

there has been an upsurge in the Northwest Territories since 1961, but this is more related to developments such as the Pine Point railway, which was to open the Pine Point mining operation, a project which was opposed by the Liberal opposition of the day. The upsurge has nothing to do with the Canadian mining regulations. The opening of the Pine Point mine was directly connected with the construction of the Pine Point railway by the former Conservative government.

The same applies to the exploration activity in the high Arctic with respect to oil. This is directly related to the well that was drilled on Melville Island in 1961, promoted by Dome Petroleum and a consortium of minor Canadian oil companies which took this tremendous risk of going into the high Arctic in the winter of 1961-62 and drilling an exploratory well. It is called a wildcat well because, I suppose, it was really a wildcat operation which paved the way for the present interest which is going forward under the auspices of Panarctic. Panarctic is a consortium of government and private companies, much on the same basis as the initial operation in 1961.

I should like to revert to what this will mean in terms of development in the Yukon. The same principle applies in the Yukon as in the Northwest Territories. During the 1960's there has been an upsurge of production from \$13 million to \$80 million. This is largely based on the development of the asbestos mine at Clinton Creek, the New Imperial mine on the outskirts of Whitehorse, and on the Anvil mine which came into production just over a year ago. But again, these operations are related more to the development programs that were carried out in the latter 50's and 60's than to any change in the legislation. There was no change in the legislation. The New Imperial mine was made possible by capital investment from Japan, and the Anvil mine is a consortium of Canadian, Japanese, German and British interests. All these projects were made possible by the Roads to Resources program that took place in the latter 50's and 60's. In other words, progress has been based on infrastructure rather than legislative manipulation.

I notice that the minister made an announcement recently that the Dempster highway is proceeding to connect the Yukon territory to the Mackenzie delta. The Mackenzie highway was under way in the early 1960's and was stopped by the Liberal government when it came to power in 1963. Instead of a new development, it is the resurrection of an aborted development that was under way and should now be completed. It is being revised now because the growing mining activity in the Yukon and right through to the Mackenzie delta has made it absolutely necessary to proceed with this project. A railroad will have to be developed also if we are going to bring in the rich iron ore deposits that were located by the Crest Explorations people on the Arctic circle. There are special development problems in the north. These areas are remote from markets; there are special transportation problems, so the costs are 25 per cent to 30 per cent higher. All these matters have to be taken into consideration. We have to listen to the voice of the local people if we are really going to deal with these problems by legislative action.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

There is one other matter that I should like to bring into focus, and which I consider to be fundamental. The minister says that he wants efficient local management. This involves giving some consideration to the aboriginal rights of the native people of the Yukon. The minister, because of his failure to consult with Indians and with Eskimos, the aboriginal people of this country, has run into difficulty. He has also encountered difficulty in the national parks because he has failed to consult the local people concerned. I would refer him to the present controversy that is going on in Riding Mountain where the government has decided to close down a roller-rink which has provided positive recreational activities for many years. At a time when the government is providing \$15 million for the Opportunities for Youth program, it phases out this program. The department is also phasing out church camps at a time when we need to expand summer opportunities for youth rather than to contract them.

The same problem has arisen with our aboriginal people because of failure to consult. The minister recently made a speech in this connection, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* of March 24, 1971, as follows:

"The government does not intend to force progress along the directions set out in the policy proposals of June 1969. The future direction will be that which emerges in meetings between the government and Indian representatives and people."

This is good, commonsense even though it comes belatedly. The article goes on:

—he said in a lecture sponsored by the Dunning Trust Lectures Committee.

Later in the speech, he referred to the "now defunct policy proposals."

In other words, he has backed down completely on the famous or the infamous Indian white paper in 1969. The response to this white paper was the publication of the Red Paper by the Indian people of Canada. This is something that must be taken into consideration when dealing with this bill. For this reason, I would like to move an amendment:

• (12:20 p.m.)

That all the words after "That" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"this Bill be not now read a second time but that it be resolved that in the opinion of this House the terms and conditions agreed to by resolution of this House and recorded in the Journals for 1867 that, upon transfer of the Territory to Canada and upon grant to Parliament of authority to legislate for the welfare and good government of the Territory, the claims of the Indian tribes in the Territory to compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement 'will be considered and settled in conformity with the equitable principles which uniformly governed the British Crown in its dealings with the aborigines' be implemented as a prior condition to the enactment of any further legislation concerning the sale of mineral rights in the lands of the Yukon Territory."

I move this amendment at this time, Mr. Speaker, because in the same article the minister was reported as follows:

Mr. Chrétien said flatly that the government will not renegotiate any treaties. It would become, he said, a never-ending process.