

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

also tell me whether this policy would extend to those Indian people in the Yukon who are engaged in prospecting for minerals.

I wish once again to dwell on an issue which I think should occupy the concentrated attention of the branch. I have said before that in the Yukon territory there are no reserves established for the Indian people. This situation has not changed. In every other jurisdiction in Canada the Indian people either have established Indian reserves or they have been paid in cash or kind in lieu of reserves being set aside for them. As the minister knows, the policy in the Yukon is for land to be set aside for the use of the Yukon Indian people by order in council, but these orders in council are flexible things and what is made an order in council today may next month cease to be an order in council or it may be varied.

During the construction of the Teslin airport or the enlargement of Teslin airport, for instance, under the past administration, the Indian reserve at Teslin was varied to the extent that reserve occupied land set aside for the use of Indians in that area was reduced in size in order to obtain for the Department of Transport sufficient land to accomplish their enlargement program. I do not think this procedure really is good enough. It certainly does not provide any too much long range security for the Indian people as to what they can regard as their own land. Again I should like to ask the minister or her officials to give this problem their concentrated attention. I feel that either the Indian people in the Yukon should have established entitlement to land, on an acreage basis if you will, so that they can look forward in the future to sharing in the resource discoveries as do the Indian people in other provinces or should be given something in lieu thereof.

I really do not know what the reason was for establishing reserves in the first place except that perhaps it may have been to satisfy the Indian people in the early days of settlement to the extent that they would be guaranteed a permanent and exclusive place in which to live, to farm, to raise livestock and so on. But, perhaps because of the small number of Indian people in the Yukon, this policy was not followed up there, historically. The fact remains that they have no land which they can call their own. They are the only Indian people in the whole of the Dominion of Canada who have not either been given land that they can call their own or payment in cash or kind in lieu thereof.

Passing to the education of the Indian people in the Yukon, I would once again urge the minister to co-operate with her colleagues in other federal government departments,

particularly the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, to establish vocational training facilities for the Yukon Indian children. I am aware of the fact that the Indian affairs branch has an on the job training policy whereby the young Indian people can obtain employment with an employer and the department pays 50 per cent of the wages that are usually paid to the apprentice or to the learner in the trade during the months that he is an apprentice. I believe this policy extends to a six months' training period. However, I am just wondering how far it would go, for instance, if an Indian boy wanted to become skilled in the trade of electrician or plumber. These are questions that have often been asked.

Incidentally, may I say that I have referred some of these applicants or proposed applicants of Indian parentage who wished to obtain on the job training to the territorial government authorities who have informed me that they have no knowledge of any agreement existing between the territorial government and any federal government department with regard to on the job training. I do not think this is so. I think that the on the job training policy of the Indian affairs branch applies equally to the Yukon Territory and to any other jurisdiction in Canada.

May I also suggest that the Indian affairs branch policy in this regard be extended so that an Indian youth who, for instance, wishes to take training on a caterpillar tractor, a crane or a shovel or heavy equipment of that nature, may be encouraged to undergo training with some of the local contractors in the construction business during the winter season when their equipment is not working and when it could be gainfully and usefully utilized in the training of Indian boys. This is not training in a skill in the sense of one becoming an electrician or a plumber. But it does make for training operators of heavy equipment who would be available in the local labour pool when the seasonal construction of roads and the like commences in the spring and summer. I forget which hon. member on the other side of the house mentioned the desirability of retaining this native labour pool in the north. In my view this is one manner in which this could be accomplished.

I also wonder whether the minister would enlarge on the policy, if there is one in the branch, which provides similar training for girls. Indian girls are as much in need of this type of vocational training as are Indian boys. Now that there is a rather complex health and welfare administration set up throughout the north, I wonder just how far the branch could go in encouraging this type