

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

a position perhaps to change what is complained of. So when the people of the area say there will not be representation, I say there will be representation.

The federal government is putting money into the area. The hon. member for Yukon can question me about the spending of this money. I am responsible to the Parliament of Canada and I am speaking as a member of a democratic institution. The hon. member for Yukon can put to us the case of the 18,000 citizens he represents. It is his job to do so.

An hon. Member: He is not here often.

Mr. Chrétien: He does so on many occasions quite ably. The hon. member himself has said that this is not the time to change the territory into a province, because it has neither the population nor the financial base.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not say that.

Mr. Chrétien: It is not a province, but a territory. We have given the Yukon a special status because of the different problems that exist there. The hon. member for Yukon represents a population of 18,000 people, while other members in the House are obliged by law to represent at least 50,000 people. He represents those people because we consider that the Yukon is a special case.

Mr. Dinsdale: What price democracy!

Mr. Chrétien: This is quite democratic and the hon. member is quite entitled to put his case here.

Mr. Nielsen: Will the minister permit a question?

Mr. Chrétien: At the end of my remarks, please. We have more than just an executive council, because we want to bring an elected member into the administration. This man will be given the responsibility of administering one or perhaps two departments. I do not know about that; I will discuss that with the other councillors. If that man chooses to administer education for example—and the hon. member referred to education—he will probably be involved with the equivalent local moneys collected in the Yukon—

Mr. Nielsen: Under the direction of the Commissioner, who takes orders from the minister.

Mr. Chrétien: And the minister is responsible to the most democratic assembly in Canada, the Parliament of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Dinsdale: That is colonialism.

Mr. Chrétien: That is not colonialism. An area in Canada can become a province, or not become one. Here we have a territorial government and we are trying to find a way to cope with problems of communication that have existed. If what we propose works well, then we shall take another step in that direction. I said to the hon. member for Yukon that this was a first step. From 1958 to 1962, when the hon. member sat on the government side of the House, he did not suggest a forward step in that direction.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that is not so.

Mr. Dinsdale: Ask Commissioner Gordon Cameron about that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the minister to reconsider what he said, because he knows as well as I do that between 1958 and 1960 the Yukon Act was amended precisely as I outlined in my remarks this morning. These were progressive steps. We introduced the Advisory Committee on Finance, the Court of Appeal, and increased the assets of the council.

Mr. Chrétien: Did the hon. member's party bring in an elected member who was to sit on an executive committee?

Mr. Nielsen: We brought in the Advisory Committee on Finance.

Mr. Chrétien: It is democratic?

Mr. Nielsen: It is not working.

Mr. Chrétien: I notice that the reforms put forward by the administration which the hon. member supported are not working. I am trying to bring in something new that will work.

Mr. Nielsen: It will not work.

• (4:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: At any event, Mr. Speaker, if we keep on exchanging interesting views, I will not be able to conclude.

As concerns the Northwest Territories, there was much talk about the Carrothers Commission and I must say that 19 out of the 28 recommendations that were made have