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GROWTH OF TERRITORIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

In his opening address on January 16 to the twentieth session of the Council of the Northwest Territories, held in Ottawa, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gordon Robertson, spoke in part as follows:

"...It is only about nine years since the Council was established in essentially its present form. Before that, for a great many years, it was made up entirely of appointed members, most of them officials. In a sense however, this Council has a tradition which runs back at least to 1872, when the first Council of the Northwest Territories was established by federal legislation. That early Council, which met first in Winnipeg and later in Regina, was in practice primarily concerned with the Government of the Western plains before the formation of the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Since that early time, the creation of new provinces and territories, and the extension northwards of some of the provincial boundaries, has changed the area for which the Council is responsible to what it is today.

IDEA OF A NEW TERRITORY

"During the life of the present Council, we may see this historical process continue. As many of you know, the question of establishing a new 'Territory of Mackenzie' was discussed at the final meeting of the third Council in Resolute Bay last July. At that time, members supported the idea in principle, and made a number of very helpful preliminary suggestions

about the boundaries and initial organization of the proposed new Territory. This same subject will, I am sure, be a major concern for this Council and a matter to which it may be desirable to direct some early attention.

TERRITORIES ACT

"The Council of the Northwest Territories draws its authority from the Northwest Territories Act, which is of course a federal statute. Accordingly, we do not in theory enjoy precisely the same autonomous position as a province. Our autonomy as well as our responsibilities under the Act are nevertheless substantial. The Commissioner in Council has essentially the same legislative authority as a provincial legislature, and the Commissioner and Territorial administration have essentially the same powers and functions as a provincial government except, in each case, for matters affecting resources other than game, and certain rights to borrow money. Most important, this Council has the 'power of the purse' as far as territorial expenditures and direct taxation are concerned. At this session, for example, the annual appropriation ordinance will be introduced for your consideration, and I have no doubt that it will receive your close scrutiny.

"Aside from taxation, the most important source of revenue available for territorial purposes is the five-year financial agreement with the Federal Government. This is analogous to the tax-rental agreements and other finan-

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