

*Yukon Minerals Act*

employment for the local work force. The provisions of this bill will work to the detriment of the efforts of his department in giving incentive grants to industries located in the north because its provisions will work in such a way as to discourage and penalize development in the principal industry in the Yukon Territory. Those of us who have watched the progress of mineral development at such an optimistic rate in the Yukon Territory have hoped that from it would spring logically related, and badly needed secondary industries to provide a whole new base for future development in that part of our country.

• (4:40 p.m.)

There is no doubt, however, that short-sighted, negative, arbitrary and restrictive measures, such as those contained in this proposed act, will destroy any such hope for the development of secondary industries when the primary industry on which they would be based will be so adversely affected by this unwarranted piece of legislation. Is it any wonder that it has been so soundly criticized by those people who know best the needs of the Yukon Territory and whose views I have already cited in small measure earlier in this speech? This proposed act is merely further evidence that the government intends to continue its policy of designing laws geared to making life simple for the bureaucrats. The fact that this measure is neither sought by the people whom it affects, nor of benefit to them, is not, of course, and as usual, regarded by this government as being sufficient reason for altering it.

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I prepared this speech about a month and a half ago, so if the situation regarding the bill has changed in the meantime I hope I can still be understood. I should like to suggest that the minerals or anything else in the north should be developed for the benefit of the people of all Canada. Perhaps we should start with the people of the north and then include all Canada, but I do not think these resources should be developed only for the people of southern Canada, as I am afraid has been the case quite frequently in the past.

I think there should be some definite move on the part of the government, in connection with this bill or any other, to help the people of the north on a permanent basis. I cannot think of anything that would be more effective than moving those people connected with the administration of mining or power or anything else to the communities concerned. Surely, if they lived in the area they would have a better understanding of the problems and their decisions would benefit the people much more than decisions made in Ottawa.

The complaints I receive from people in the north tend to be along the line that we do not understand their problems and make decisions about things without sufficient knowledge. I would like, therefore, to suggest that the government base its decision-making personnel closer to the areas with which they are concerned. We should make definite efforts to conserve the non-renewable resources of the north for future use. It will be too bad if we do not make the most effective use of the resources

available. First, we should take an inventory of the mineral resources of the north. We have done this to some degree already in the Carr report, which resulted from a study of the obvious things in the north but I am sure there is still much to be done.

I should like to make the following points: There has been no study of Canada's mineral resources either in the north or in the rest of Canada, or of our future national needs for various minerals similar to the study of the National Energy Board on oil, gas and coal in which the future demand and supply reserves were estimated based on probable reserves, projected future production, and future needs based on certain estimates of what our economic growth, industrial development and trading patterns should be. As far as mineral resources are concerned, the Canadian government is pursuing a "head in the sand" type of policy in which it is assumed that we have plentiful reserves and our economic growth and balance of payments position depend upon the ever-increasing development and sale of our natural resources by whomever can be enticed into exploiting them.

I would suggest that it is important that we make an inventory of what we have, and then decide on our future needs. Exploiting our resources to make money is not good enough. In conjunction with the mining development in the north, we should begin to build secondary industries. Smelters, refineries and reduction plants would provide a base for heavy industry, and freight costs on many items in and out would be reduced if we had a total package rather than one primary industry. The development of a total economy, rather than just mining, is desirable. It should not just be a matter of mine quickly, get out and leave the north. Mining will form the basis of northern economy but development of support services may bring something which will be renewable and long lasting. I would suggest also the development of farming. Thinking in terms of the Yukon, there may be a form of farming, different from that in Ontario or western Canada, but which would be suitable to that particular area.

I have asked the minister a number of times if he has investigated what the Russians have done. I have suggested that he take the committee to see how they have developed the north. As I understand it, the Canadian government has not done too much. I am sure the committee would gain much from such a visit and could make worth-while recommendations as a result. I saw a film provided by the minister called "Below Zero". It was most enjoyable but I noticed a serious omission. There was nothing in it about the country which has more northern territory and more winter than all others put together, that is Russia. Surely, this area should be investigated. I do not suggest that we should do everything the way the Russians do or that they have necessarily done the right thing, but surely we could learn something from them.

I read Farley Mowat's book on Siberia recently and while I do not suggest that he is an authority on this or any other north, he did point out some measures that I do not think we have followed in Canada. He spoke of using the permafrost to build dams, for instance, and this

[Mr. Schumacher.]