

The Address—Mr. Allmand

the Yukon first, because he believes in democracy; second, because the member for the Yukon was elected on such platform, a platform to bring provincial status to the Yukon; and third, because the majority in the Yukon council favour such a move. What nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

The Conservative party ran on many policy positions in the last election. Their platform brochures and election speeches were full of them. Because they were elected as the government, does this mean that they do not have to consult Parliament? Does the fact that they were elected and these items were in their platform mean that they can be implemented by administrative action rather than by consulting Parliament? Does it mean that all promises can be implemented by administrative action, like the new instructions to the Yukon Commissioner? I do not think so. That has not been our tradition.

The Minister's argument is weak on other grounds. Even if the federal election were to be considered a referendum on provincehood in the Yukon, then from my information the question did not carry. If I understand it correctly, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) won his election with approximately 45 per cent of the vote. It was enough to get him elected but not enough to interpret that the majority in the Yukon favoured provincial status. He had less than 50 per cent of the vote. I do not see how that can be considered a vote for provincehood in the Yukon.

Furthermore, while members of the Yukon council might have individually stated support for provincial status, they have not as a body, as the Yukon council, expressed themselves on this subject since the federal election. There has been no resolution, no debate and no vote in the council. In addition, the Conservative government in the Yukon received approximately 38 per cent of the vote in the last election. How is this an example of democratic action? Well, it is not.

The minister's action respecting the Yukon Territory was a unilateral administrative act without consulting this Parliament on the Yukon council. There was no debate and no vote. Neither the Commissioner of the Yukon nor the Yukon Indians was consulted. Neither their promise nor the Prime Minister's promise to hold a referendum on this subject in the Yukon was kept. The minister of Indian and northern affairs has said he will consult with the council of Yukon Indians later, but to do what? He has already implemented a policy which brings the Yukon down the road to provincial status. Does this mean that when he consults with the Yukon Indians next week and they tell him they are opposed to the instructions given the commissioner last week, he will then withdraw those instructions? I doubt it. The minister has already made up his mind. He has done this now, and he is going to consult later. The Minister has said he will hold a referendum later. If he is going to hold a referendum later respecting provincehood in the Yukon Territory, why did he take the action he took last week?

An hon. Member: He has pre-judged the election.

[Mr. Allmand.]

Mr. Allmand: That is right. He said that the things he did last week are not a move to provincial status. That is not what the former commissioner thinks.

I might point out, because some people were casting doubts about her credibility this morning, that the Commissioner for the Yukon, Mrs. Ione Christensen, was born in the Yukon and has lived her entire life there. Her father was a leading RCMP officer in the Yukon. Therefore, she has strong Yukon credentials. She resigned in protest over the instructions given to her last week because she felt the Conservative government was moving to provincial status too quickly and improperly. The key issue here is not, as the hon. member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) said this morning, whether or not one day the Yukon and the Northwest Territories should have provincial status; the issue is the complete disregard of Parliament in the implementation of major governmental change.

The minister's contention that his move was prompted by a respect for democracy is phony. With less than 50 per cent of the voters in the Yukon supporting a proposal, one cannot claim democratic support.

There are still more examples to illustrate how Parliament has been by-passed by this government which said it would give a higher priority to Parliament. Acting against public opinion and without consulting Parliament, the Tory government traded off Loto Canada to the provinces. As a member of Parliament who is a strong supporter of amateur sport, I considered this a most regretful move.

I was present at many of the Olympics events held in Montreal in 1976 and at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in 1978. What pride there was for Canadian athletes and for the teams who showed so much improvement since the last Olympics and last Commonwealth Games. I believe Canada ranked in the top ten or eleven in the last Olympic Games and we walked away with the Commonwealth honours.

Under our Liberal government, the sports federations in our country had experienced increasing support over the last ten years and Loto Canada was a keystone of that support. It is from that source that a lot of money came for coaching, training and so on. Now the narrow, shortsighted Tory government has abolished all that and our amateur sporting groups are not sure where financial support will come from, despite the announcement yesterday by the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism (Mr. Pappas). National sporting excellence in this country will not be maintained by provinces which approach all things from a regional, provincial perspective. The Tories treated a national dream for Canadian sport with short-term political expediency vis-à-vis the provinces.

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There are more examples of ignoring Parliament. The Prime Minister signed agreements with Newfoundland and British Columbia to transfer offshore mineral rights to these provinces. Not only did he implement substantial constitutional change without consulting Parliament, but most informed