

Supply—Indian Affairs

been said by the hon. member for Yukon in this respect. Under the proposals of the Carrothers commission the executive council could consist of persons who are not members of the legislative body, namely, the territorial council. As it now stands there are problems in this respect, and I hope that the minister in his reply will give us an indication of his thinking in reference to this question.

One of the exciting recommendations of the Carrothers commission is that with regard to the setting up of an economic development board and an economic development fund for northern Canada. The report recommends that approximately \$10 million be set aside for the fund. If we want to see the private sector of northern Canada develop, become meaningful and contribute in its own way to the growth of the north, we require an imaginative and exciting scheme which will in effect complement what those in the south know as the Industrial Development Bank. The economic development fund, or whatever name is given to it, could accomplish this particular purpose with respect not only to large industry but also the small man, the one who is trying to make his stake in the north on his own.

● (4:50 p.m.)

At one stage I read in *The Northerner*, one of our northern newspapers, published in Fort Smith, a report of a suggestion made by the hon. member for New Westminster that the Carrothers commission report, having now been received by the government, should be referred back to northerners for their comments, in other words, re-Carrothers Carrothers. This is not what we want in the north. We want action based on the report, based on the territorial council's recommendations, and based on the minister's own views.

I would now like to speak of the officers of the department, who are serving in the eastern Arctic. I refer to the field officers, men and women, social workers, teachers, administrators, engineers and technical officers who serve the department and thereby serve Canada, particularly the people of northern Canada. I would like to comment on the great feeling of humanity and understanding that most of these officers bring to their responsibilities in the north.

It is not an easy thing for a person who is a social worker, a teacher or an engineer to change the pattern of his life, to leave the urban setting of southern Canada with its television, roads and all the other amenities

[Mr. Orange.]

and go into a small northern community where mail is received once a month, where he will not see fresh food for months at a time, where his water supply in the winter will be ice blocks, and in the summer will be brought in from a lake miles away and have to be chlorinated by his wife. But these people attempt to adjust and do adjust to their responsibilities and roles as representatives of the government of Canada.

They wish to bring to the less fortunate people in the north some of the features of southern civilization and at the same time help them retain the basic elements of their own culture. They want to bring the northerners into the mainstream of Canadian life, but this task has been complicated by the problems of recruiting. I am convinced that there are Canadians in all walks of life who are prepared to go to the north, but I am sorry to say that the present system of recruitment is designed to thwart and keep people out of the north. Recently I placed a question on the order paper asking how many field positions there were in the Northwest Territories under the Department of Northern Affairs and inquiring about how many of them were vacant as of October 1.

The answer was that there are approximately 1,380 positions in the northern administration branch in northern Canada. This includes all the prevailing rate positions and teaching positions. But taking into account the fact that the majority of prevailing rate positions are filled by local help and that the vast majority of teaching positions are filled without any problem, it is remarkable that approximately 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the other positions in the field are unfilled. I am talking about social workers, development officers, administrators, and administrative support services. This is making the role of the department most difficult. For example, I know that in Keewatin in the central Arctic major departmental programs for the arts and crafts are being seriously affected by lack of staff, and I have always placed the blame on the inadequate facilities of the Civil Service Commission.

I do not believe it would be possible, but personally I would like to see the responsibility for recruiting people for the north taken out of the hands of the Civil Service Commission, or Public Service Commission as it is to be known shortly, and given to the minister and his department, allowing him to do as he now is able to do when recruiting teachers. At present experts from his department travel all