

Mr. Penner: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) is present in the House. You will have noted, Madam Speaker, that there is unanimity among all the Parties. May I ask, therefore, if the Chair would seek the consent of the House for us to proceed through all stages of the passage of this Bill so that it can be ready to go for Royal Assent?

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I just want to indicate that there had been previous discussions between the Parties and, as a result of the nature of the issue being examined today, we are in complete agreement that we ought to proceed through all stages. Therefore, may I say on behalf of the New Democrats that we are quite prepared to complete all stages of this legislation in terms of moving it expeditiously today.

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, speaking on behalf of the Government, let me say that we would be inclined to accept that offer. Am I to understand that we will be guaranteed completion of all stages expeditiously today? There will be no carry-over? Is my understanding correct? I gather the discussions took place between the opposition critics and the Member from the Northwest Territories on our side and that this is where this agreement originated. Is this the sense of the agreement? I would just like to be sure of what I am agreeing to.

Mr. Penner: Yes, Madam Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, we in this Party would be prepared to move through all stages expeditiously. During the Committee of the Whole stage I will have just a few brief questions to put to the Minister, but that would not fall outside of the definition of "expeditious".

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is there unanimous consent?

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, the House Leader for the New Democratic Party, I think, was about to rise to say that my understanding was correct.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Parliamentary Secretary's eye. I was attempting to rise to indicate that it is our intention to move through all stages today, although one is never able to predict the actions of the House. Assuming that all goes according to Hoyle, it would be our intention to complete the debate in all stages today.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is there unanimous consent for the motion to be changed accordingly?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into committee thereon, Mrs. Champagne in the Chair.

● (1620)

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The House in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-125, an Act to enable the

Northern Canada Power Commission

Northern Canada Power Commission to issue shares, to authorize the sale of those shares to the Government of the Northwest Territories, to repeal the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, and to provide for related matters.

Mr. Penner: Madam Chairman, if Clause 1 were called I would be prepared to raise a few questions, although not many, with the Minister. In this way we could move expeditiously, which is what we promised to do.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Because of the Standing Orders I have to stand Clause 1, which is the title. All that the Hon. Member has mentioned can be done on Clause 2.

On Clause 2—Definitions

Mr. Penner: Madam Chairman, I thank you for that correction. I meant to say Clause 2. It was a slip on my part.

I want to begin by asking the Minister about the headquarters in Edmonton. I recall from the occasion when the subcommittee visited Edmonton and spent some time at headquarters that it was a very good quality building. I would like to know if the Minister can share with the House any information about when this asset may be disposed of. Is there some other plan that the federal Government has of which the Minister is aware? I know that this matter is not his direct responsibility but that of the Department of Public Works. However, since the building is now being occupied by NCPC, I would like to know what future plans there are.

As well, I am curious as to whether in fact it is a Public Works building or whether it was owned outright by the Crown corporation. That is something about which I am not certain.

If the building is sold and if in fact it is a NCPC asset where will the revenues from its sale go? Will they be part of the write-down that was referred to in the Bill, a \$43 million write-down? What exactly is the destination of those revenues?

Mr. McKnight: Madam Chairman, at the outset I would like to thank both opposition Parties, and in particular the Hon. Member for Western Arctic who conducted the negotiations on behalf of the Government, with respect to proceeding to all stages today.

The Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior has a great deal of knowledge about NCPC and has expressed points of view on which he and I agree in the report that was tabled. He was a member of the committee. The report recommended the divestiture.

The headquarters, which the Hon. Member correctly described as being valuable, are part of the assets of NCPC and will be included in the shares transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Government will become the owners of the asset through the share purchase. Therefore the revenues that would accrue from the divestiture by that Government would be used by that Government. It is