

Supply—Indian Affairs

only from employees who work in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources but from those in other departments as well.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I would also tax the minister with his refusal to grant the most reasonable request of the members of the Yukon council to place before him and the committee, this fair committee on northern affairs—

Mr. Roxburgh: Does the hon. member believe it is a fair committee? May I ask him whether he thinks it is fair or unfair?

Mr. Nielsen: With respect to the decision that has been made concerning the request of the members of the Yukon council, who were elected by the people there, to appear before that committee and give their views on governmental reform, it has been a most unfair committee. It has been most unfair because of the government majority on the committee which voted against that request. What kind of democracy is this? We have the elected representatives of a duly constituted body making a request to the committee and an appeal to the minister—

Mr. Laing: They did not complain to me.

Mr. Nielsen: They did complain to the minister, and the members of the council will confirm that.

Mr. Laing: You wrote the stuff for them yourself.

Mr. Nielsen: The allegation of the minister, Mr. Chairman, that I wrote the stuff for them myself is absolutely false. It is untrue and the minister knows it.

Mr. Laing: You have said that before on another matter too.

Mr. Nielsen: The minister, when he raised in the house, the particular matter to which he has reference, knew that there was a good answer as well. He failed to mention that in the proceedings before the council full explanation had been given to the members there with respect to the authorship of that particular section of the document to which he refers. The minister did not mention that to the council. He wanted to be fair. Fair, my foot!

Mr. Laing: You have denied it categorically.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not deny it categorically. The minister knows that and the record of the committee proceedings will bear it out. So let

[Mr. Nielsen.]

the minister stop misleading the committee now.

Mr. Laing: It does show it.

Mr. Nielsen: The minister is wrong and his statement is untrue. None the less the fact remains that the appeal to the minister by the members of the council fell on deaf ears. The appeal of the elected representatives of the Yukon to the committee fell on deaf ears. Why, Mr. Chairman? Perhaps it was because I was a thorn in the side of the committee. Perhaps I was saying something they did not like or agree with, or perhaps they thought I was going to become political.

The members elected by the citizens of the Yukon wanted to be heard but they were denied that right. I might add that some of my friends in the corner in the Cr ditiste party joined with the Liberal majority on the committee in denying them that right, as well as members of the other smaller parties in the house.

They again repeat that request, Mr. Chairman. They make that request through me and appeal to the minister and to the committee to be heard on these matters when the committee sits again. They feel the time has long gone when there must be an increasing degree of executive responsibility passed to the people of the Yukon. They feel the time has long gone when the bureaucratic control now exercised must cease. If we adopt the recommendations made by the Carrothers commission, this is what is going to happen in the Northwest Territories as well. They want to see more responsibility on the ground.

The minister has the views which I have placed on record in this committee and in the standing committee in connection with the reforms which we feel should be brought about. I urge him not to set up any studies or commissions and not, by subterfuge, to continue any longer the existence of this tightly-gripped bureaucratic control of the government. I urge him now to consider enlightened reform, to make the council mean something, to give to that council the responsibility of spending the money that they derive from imposing taxes upon themselves.

I have said before that the conditions that exist in the Yukon are colonialistic. Whether such a word exists in the dictionary or not, the minister knows what I mean. I have compared the conditions that exist with those which gave rise to the Boston tea party. Here