

*Yukon and N.W.T. Government*

**Mr. Orange:** If the hon. member had been listening at the beginning he would have heard my remarks. When I first read the resolution I thought we would be in for a rather bitter afternoon. This resolution says nothing. It is an attempt to grab headlines. It talks about "the pathological refusal of the government to end the colonial form of government" which exists in the Territories. The Carrothers Commission recommended certain alternative approaches. These have been accepted. The spirit, yes, maybe; the words, no.

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, right at the outset I want to indicate that I agree with the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange) that every time we discuss the subject of northern affairs and northern development the tenor of the debate reaches an unusually high level, and I want to thank the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) whose motion has made this debate possible. The hon. member for Yukon has now been in this House for a period of some 12 years and I think it is quite reasonable to state that he has been one of the leading innovators and creative forces with respect to the on-going process of northern development in Canada.

With reference to my good friend, the hon. member for Northwest Territories, as I listened to him on the subject of the minister's recent statement in Yellowknife, the new capital of the Northwest Territories, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I was almost persuaded to send him a little note and tell him to come across the aisle to join us.

I am sure the reason he fits so well into the Conservative thesis on northern development is that he was trained under the vision of northern development when he was the administrator of the eastern Arctic back in those great years of development, and during the period that I had the pleasure of being associated with him as the responsible minister. I know interjections have been made on the other side when I said that, Mr. Speaker, but I often wonder what led the hon. member astray in more recent years.

**An hon. Member:** Knowledge.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I can only come to the conclusion that it was due to the fact that earlier in his years he had fallen into bad company. As they say, as the twig is bent so is the tree inclined. I am sure the hon. member for Yukon would agree with me in this regard that we would welcome him with open arms

as he joins us in our crusade on behalf of northern development.

The only sour note in his presentation was his attack on the motion put forward by the hon. member for Yukon as being without any particular meaning and designed mainly for the purpose of headline seeking. I do not agree with the first part of the analysis, that it is without any significance, but I do agree with the last part of the hon. member's analysis. I think the more headlines we can get for the problems of northern Canada, the great Canadian frontier north of the sixtieth parallel, with its 3½ million square miles of largely uninhabited and undeveloped territory, the better it will be for the out-reaching of Canadian nationhood in this country. The reason I say this is because there is always a tendency, as Prime Minister St. Laurent said so wisely in 1952, for Canadian governments to occupy this territory in a state of absent-mindedness. This was the case in Canada except for one or two periods under the Borden administration, and the explorations of Stefansson, when the great period of Canadian occupation, particularly of the high Arctic, took place.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Other than that, until 1952 when the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources was established under the St. Laurent administration, no government of Canada had attempted to come to grips with what was described by the succeeding Diefenbaker administration as "the last Canadian frontier" embraced by what was cynically described by opponents as the vision of northern development. I was in this House when the department was established and that was the beginning of my interest in northern affairs. I took part in the debates at the time and I admired the initiative of the St. Laurent government in this respect. That is why I became such a strong supporter and advocate of the programs initiated during the Conservative administration of 1957 to 1963.

Unfortunately, following the change of government in 1963, the negativism that had become part of the Liberal opposition attack on the programs of northern development was carried over into the new administration. I am not going to harp on the negative aspects now because we want this to be a positive debate. But it was indicated by the fact that out of sheer cussedness more than anything else, the Conservative initiative in