

Supply

Perhaps I should urge Hon. Members of the Progressive Conservative Party to ask their leader just how much energy and effort is required to develop the North. Schefferville is only in the mid-north of Quebec, a far cry from the Far North. For those who are aware of the situation in Schefferville, Gagnon and Fermont, I will get back to the Schefferville issue some other day when the Leader of the Opposition is in the House, and I will talk about the development of Schefferville and Sept-Îles and about mining. It is important to know the full story of mining development in that region. In any case, just to keep the debate on an objective basis, let us ask the former Iron Ore Company president what it means to develop those places. It is a giant task. Even at that, no matter how governments or private enterprise might plan ahead, see what happened and what is happening now on the North Shore. None of the public or private sector experts had expected the collapse of the iron ore market, everybody was taken by surprise. So much so that, in 1974, the Iron Ore Company poured \$350 million to install a concentrator at Sept-Îles, but it was never put into operation, not because the Sept-Îles workers had not done the job properly, but simply because the demand for iron ore pellets went flat between 1974 and 1979. After reading the motion under consideration, I realize that it is meaningless, although I understand why some Members may be impatient. I understand, but those remarks do not justify that impatience.

Mr. Speaker, it is much more rewarding to try to find formulas which are a bonanza for everybody rather than to impose development. When development is imposed without the agreement of all parties concerned, solutions which are worse than the problem are arrived at and, in the case of the development of the Yukon, I think it is imperative to settle the issue of the native peoples' territorial rights. All Members know that it has always been one of the key factors in the development of the North. The town of Schefferville was developed right next to an Indian reserve, and the company held lengthy negotiations with the Indians before reaching agreements.

I should point out again, Mr. Speaker, that when it comes to agreements, we experience difficulties, not only with the federal Government or private companies, but also with a provincial Government, that of Newfoundland. Here again it boils down to tradition, because the North Shore Montagnais and the Naskapis are not allowed to hunt, fish or trap in the Labrador territory of Newfoundland. They will soon seek to meet with Mr. Peckford to find a solution. If someone wants to resort to force, the police will be called in. It is a very simple case, but people have to live with it every day and it is taking ever more significance.

I am saying that only to show that if it is difficult to convince the Newfoundland Government that the traditions of the North Shore Montagnais ought to be respected, it is just as difficult to launch major industrial projects unless all parties concerned have first agreed to a joint or common plan.

Within a few weeks, the report will be completed, agreements will have to be made, and I think that the Minister of

Indian Affairs and Northern Development will do his utmost to give every consideration to the suggestions made to him by various interests about the project on the north slope of Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, there is a last point I should like to make, since my time is rapidly running out. It is that we must ensure, once the native land claims are settled, that the various companies and Government levels act quickly to meet with departmental officials so that the different projects can go forward. It often happens that a project is reviewed long before a decision is made, but the Department hopes that once the land claims are settled, we can do as the Hon. Member for Yukon and other Members for northern and southern Canada have suggested and act quickly. I simply want to emphasize that provincial governments as well as private companies and Crown corporations should meet quickly with departmental officials in an effort to speed up the implementation of these projects.

The Minister was telling me earlier, Mr. Speaker, that his major objective as far as Yukon development is concerned was to create the maximum number of jobs and develop as many aspects of the Yukon economy as possible, because of the tremendous potential of the area and we would not want this development to be delayed by anyone. We want to make sure that will take into account the people who live in these regions and the companies working there will reap the benefits of that development. This is very important. I believe that Members of a Central Government must be aware of all the problems encountered in such negotiations. If by chance someone had wanted to undertake certain projects before all the agreements were in place, what would have happened? Everyone knows what would have happened, namely injunctions, court appearances and longer legal delays than those caused by the negotiations, especially now that these negotiations are coming to an end. I believe that the Minister had the responsibility to negotiate with the various parties involved so that once an agreement was reached the various projects would not be further delayed by legal proceedings. We really want to go forward and make progress once these agreements are reached.

Mr. Speaker, I shall close simply by saying that the suggestion of the Hon. Member for Yukon that the Minister should resign, is abusive and irrelevant. On the contrary, I would ask for everyone's forbearance in view of the fact that the Minister will have the pleasure of announcing projects for the Yukon in the very near future.

● (1610)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Questions, comments, answers? On debate, the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling).

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to take part in the debate on the motion of the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). It is another indication of how badly things have turned out