

Yukon and N.W.T. Government

more money is being spent on education, health services and housing than in the past. For this, the present government and the former one should be commended. However, when one compares that with what needs to be done to bring the standards of the native people up to the standards of the rest of the North American continent in 1969, one can see that there is a long way to go still. There was not a word about that in the minister's speech, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just summarize the situation and put on record some of the most recent figures. For the year 1964, the mortality rate of Eskimo children aged one to four years was 13 times the all-Canada rate. The average age for deceased persons in the Territories in 1964 was 19.3 years for Eskimos, 29.9 years for Indians and 34.3 years for whites, as compared with 61 years for all Canada. There are extreme income differentials between the native people and the white people in the Territories. The following figures are an excellent indicator of the very dangerous coincidence of social class and ethnic background. In 1963, the average income of whites in the Northwest Territories was \$2,922, almost 70 per cent above the Canadian average. At the same time, the average per capita income for Indians was \$510 and for Eskimos \$426.

I cannot claim to be an expert like the member for the Yukon and the member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange), nor have I had the opportunity to visit the north like the present minister, but anybody who has been there knows of the tremendous difference in the housing facilities available for most of the native people as compared with that for the white people in the Territories, most of whom work for the government or private industry. I am sorry the minister has left the House, but I am sure it is for reasons which are important to him. Apparently at Inuvik, the show place of the far north created by past Canadian governments, virtually all the white population live in homes connected with the utilities provided by the government and nearly all the Indian and Eskimo people live in houses not so connected. It seems to me that this is the kind of thing we must face up to before we can claim that we are beginning to face up to the problems of the north.

• (12:40 p.m.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to some of the important recommendations of the Carrothers Commission and look at how

the minister proposes to deal with them. We commend the government and the minister for approving the position of the Carrothers Commission and rejecting the idea that the territories should be divided into two or more political units. We commend the minister for giving assurances that the Commissioner is to be more accountable to the territorial council for his executive actions than was the case in the past. The Carrothers Commission recommended the appointment of an executive council which would advise the Commissioner and administer territorial affairs. We believe that the minister's decision to add two elected members to the territorial council, one of whom must be a member of the executive, is a policy of tokenism and is not acceptable to parliament in the year 1969. We believe that the proposal of the Carrothers Commission that there be a progressive increase in the legislative and constitutional powers of the territorial council, whenever that council is desirous of so increasing its powers, is good and should be given more consideration than the minister has apparently given to it.

It is fair to say, I suppose, that in this field the minister has left us with two alternatives. One is a continuation of the present situation, and the other is the creation of provincial status for the territories. Of course, someone more important than the minister has made a pronouncement in this field. Answering some questions several days ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) suggested that we want provincial status for the territories now but that the government is not prepared to give it. We have, to my knowledge, never said that provincial status now or in the near future for the territories is a viable proposal. The Prime Minister, when answering that question, set up a straw man to knock down. He is very good at that technique.

What bothers me is that the government's program, as enunciated in ministerial speeches, does not provide adequately for the orderly and sensible economic and social development of the northern half of Canada. True, we are making provision for much larger expenditures in the north, and I want to deal with those. The minister proposes, as the estimates indicate, to spend more government money on roads, airports, railways if railways are a feasible idea, water services, meteorological studies and all other services which are necessary if economic development is to go forward. These expenditures, we think, are necessary.