

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

let that situation be clear. We have to realize that most of the money that is spent in the north is provided by the Parliament of Canada. Since this money is voted by the members of the House, I think it is only right that we should retain control in Ottawa.

At the same time, the authority will be exercised mostly by local officials, and I was glad to hear the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange) say that the administration in the territories is now much closer to the people and that he will be able to get faster action.

In closing, may I say I appreciate very much the various speeches that were made by members on both sides of the House. The reason the press devote so much publicity to the territories is that things are happening there. This is why I am so surprised that opposition members have been so negative in their speeches. We have done a lot of things in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, and we will do more. This is the new frontier. As I say, there has been much publicity about the north, and I think this is due to the fact that the government is spending more money in the north than ever before. We shall be investing even more money in the north in the future, because we realize this is in the best interests of all Canadians.

• (4:40 p.m.)

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, I have greatly appreciated the most relevant remarks of the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange), for he readily recognized the positive results that we have achieved. His position is in contrast with that of the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), whose remarks were altogether negative.

I wish to refer to comment that I found particularly unpleasant, his charge of racism against the administration. Such a thoughtless charge from the hon. member for Yukon should not pass unchallenged.

In my remarks, I mentioned there were not enough elected Eskimo or Indian members on the territorial councils, because I want that situation corrected and many people share this opinion. A while ago, the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand) also expressed that view. While almost half the population of the Northwest Territories is made up of Indians and Eskimos, there is only one Eskimo elected and one Indian appointed. With more seats now within the territorial council, I hope there will be more

Indians and Eskimos elected. I was quite amazed to find that because I mentioned this gap and expressed that wish, the hon. member for Yukon accused the department of discrimination. There is absolutely no discrimination whatsoever in our attempt to correct obvious deficiencies.

I also want to answer a remark made about the situation in Inuvik. I have been there myself more often than the hon. member for Yukon. It is true that there is a problem there. However, I must give credit to the local people in general, who are trying to solve it with the help of the government, and to the mayor of the municipality who has shown in this regard a truly remarkable initiative.

It is true that sewage and water systems are not provided in every part of the town but steps have been taken a few months ago to improve the situation. It may not be quite satisfactory at the moment, due perhaps to the fact that in the Northwest Territories government, has been somewhat over aggressive or because the population of Inuvik has grown faster than expected. This situation is in the process of being corrected, thanks particularly to the local people. In my opinion, it is important to establish local governments.

Furthermore, I must mention the active and vigorous contribution of the hon. member for the Northwest Territories, who is always pioneering insofar as the situation which prevails in the Northwest Territories is concerned, in order to inform the department of the deficiencies which may exist. Indeed, week after week, he is always defending in the House of Commons and the department the interests of his constituents in a very positive and valuable manner. I thank him for his co-operation, even though I do not always agree with him. That is normal. However, he at least makes concrete suggestions rather than staying idle, like some hon. members of the opposition.

I also thank the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo for his very good remarks on the situation prevailing in the territories. I knew he was anxious for the Indians and the Eskimos to have a greater share in the social, economic and political life of the Northwest Territories. I am grateful to him. In my opinion, he has shown to the House of Commons how minorities can assert themselves. In the Northwest and Yukon Territories, we try to establish administrative and political structures designed to give each Indian and each Eskimo the possibility of developing them-