

*Northwest Territories Power Commission*

Canada are quite agreeable to living a reasonable existence in that part of the country. For example, since 1947 we have had an agricultural experimental station at Fort Simpson.

While I am referring to the general problem of population I would not want to ignore the special difficulties faced by the native population. We have had discussions in this house from time to time—

**Mr. Lesage:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but he has been dealing with the general question of northern development, and he is now touching on the difficult human problems facing the indigenous population of the north. We are discussing second reading of a bill regarding the Northwest Territories Power Commission, and I respectfully remind you, sir, that we should deal with the principle which underlines a bill which has nothing to do with the problems of the native population of the north.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I do not quite understand the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was merely going to say that we have had—I heard the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce say something. He made some comment about not understanding.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Continue.

**Mr. Bell:** That goes without saying.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I was going to say that we are faced with this indigenous native population problem and it seems to me, in reply to the query raised by the minister, that the bill, by encouraging the promotion of power potential which in turn will lead to the development of our resources, is going to be a much more positive way of handling the native population

problem than by direct relief. I raise that issue merely by way of further support of the principle of the bill.

Finally, I should like to ask a question which the minister can perhaps deal with more directly when we come to the sections of the bill. I should like to present it to him at this time so he will have the reply ready. I am particularly interested in the fact that the principle of the bill extends to areas outside the Northwest Territories. I presume, Mr. Speaker, the benefits of the bill can be extended to certain provincial areas if those provincial areas are interested in developing the power potential of their northern regions.

I mention this because the prairie provinces have certain areas that might be regarded as being within the Canadian north. Those regions are also a part of the great Canadian shield and contain tremendous power resources as well as natural resources. If the benefits of this bill could be made available to certain of the northern areas of the provinces it would go a long way toward implementing some of the recommendations that have been made by this group, which has suggested that before we can develop resources by private means public authority should make available the power potential. I should like to have the minister comment when we come to the particular sections of the bill.

On motion of Mr. Herridge the debate was adjourned.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Harris:** We will take second reading of the pipe line bill tomorrow.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.