

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

posals is that Canadians living in areas where jobs are most needed will have a better chance to improve their lives, because of the scope that this program provides for constructive industrial development and improved skills.

I should like to suggest to the Government and the Prime Minister particularly that if there is any area in Canada that is desperately in need of an incentive to encourage industrial development it is that area located in the two northern territories where, because of the lack of communication and transportation facilities, a situation which is being remedied, industry has not seen its way clear to move in to the extent of providing an economic base for the north.

All I am urging upon the Government is that the Yukon and Northwest Territories be not overlooked or forgotten at the time these consultations take place. I believe this is a valid request for me to make on behalf of the hon. Member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and myself. I believe this is of significance at this particular time because every day we read statements of various provincial leaders, such as the Premier of the Province of Quebec, who feel they should take their provinces out of Confederation because their legitimate needs and aspirations are not being met under the present set-up.

Those of us who live in the far northern territories are not trying to get out of Confederation; we are trying to get in and we want to be consulted at every stage of the game. We know that theoretically the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing) is capable of representing these territories at these consultations. We also know that there is not very much negotiation when one Minister of the Crown is dealing with another Minister of the Crown. There are councils of both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories and there is a Commissioner for each of those territories. All I am asking is that the Prime Minister consult with these two Commissioners and councils at the time new criteria are being developed.

Perhaps I should point out that the council of the Northwest Territories, which meets twice each year, will be meeting on June 14 in Yellowknife. I know also that the Yukon council meets regularly. There is absolutely no reason why the two representative Commissioners could not be given an opportunity to make their views known to the Government and supplement whatever ef-

forts are being made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

I make the plea to the Prime Minister to reconsider his position and allow our representatives to embark upon this new exercise of Federal-Provincial Conferences in an attempt to assist in arriving at conclusions and programs for Canada. I ask the Prime Minister to cut us in to the fullest extent, if only to give these territories experience so that they may gradually work their way into full Government representation and be able at some point to take their place at the bargaining table with the provinces.

In the meantime, it is not good enough, in my opinion, for us to be told what the Prime Minister and the 10 Provincial Premiers have decided to give us. We want to participate in these discussions. I suggest to the Government that we have a lot of good advice to offer as to how these new designations and new incentives can be applied to the remote parts of Canada.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, since this question falls within the purview of the Department of Labour I have been asked on behalf of the Minister to reply to the hon. Member. If I might make a personal comment before making my statement, I wish to say that following the hon. Member's efforts in the House since coming here two years ago I would have assumed that he would have endeared himself to the ministry to such an extent that he would wait with bated breath until the Department had made a decision that would be favourable to the Northwest Territories.

In any event, the Government is well aware of the special problems of the north and programs are in effect to help ease the difficulties of this particular part of Canada. There are welfare programs related to the Indian and Eskimo populations, vocational training, education, housing and such programs which tend to stimulate the economy, and certainly there is the stimulation of resources development. The Government has kept the Northwest Territories aware of its new policies through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and, to some extent, through the hon. Member. The normal channel of communication with the territorial governments is, of course, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.