

that justice must not only be done, in reference to the territories, but it must be manifestly seen to be done. The details of these bills destroy our confidence in their entire structure and policy.

There is another point here on which I feel I should speak. It is a provision in both the universal declaration and the bill of rights, which stresses that no one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I must ask you gentlemen what you would say if from among your constituents there was a prisoner in a penitentiary who was sent, let us say, to Alexandra Fiord to suffer confinement in the unusual, for him, surroundings there, being obliged to eat raw meat and live in sub zero temperatures, and denied contact with anyone speaking his own language. Would that not be cruel, inhuman and degrading? For the Eskimo, confinement in the south is just the same thing. This is a change of environment for him. There is a change in the noise level, temperature, humidity, diet, absence of contact with his own kind in his own language, not to mention utter and complete loneliness in that subhuman atmosphere so foreign to him. What else is it but cruel, inhuman and degrading to us all? Now, there may be some Eskimos who have had contact with the whites and who have eaten white food; for them it is not going to be so bad. I heard of a case at Frobisher bay where a young fellow enjoyed going down to Burritt's Rapids and he did his best to get a return ticket. However, I think that is an exception rather than the rule. While it may become rapidly more and more the case there are still enough Eskimos who look at it in an entirely different way.

I mentioned to the Chairman earlier this morning we had a pretty primitive level and I do not think that the situation should arise where a person is charged with manslaughter or some other serious offense that there should be the possibility that a judge from outside, counsel from outside and interpreters from Ottawa who have been cut off from the local environments for some years, will come in and go through the proceedings, as a result of which this person could go to the penitentiary for life. Okkarlik was convicted of manslaughter in 1954 or 1955 somewhere in the Hudson bay area. He went to Stoney Mountain penitentiary. I think he received a five year sentence. After a couple of years they were afraid he was going to die while being held there and they sent him back into the Northwest Territories. The only answer for this—and I know the department is working on it—is an institution in the territories. However, I suggest there are a lot of other things we need just as much right now in the territories.

I hope I will not be keeping you too much longer, gentlemen, but I wish to say that, given certain basic constitutional changes, certain basic facilities of the government, we are not asking for provincial status or all the things that we may yet be entitled to get; we are asking for the basic minimum. I must admit that real improvements can, at the instance and by the consent of those directly affected and concerned, be made. I suggest respectfully that it is doubtful if anyone from the north was really consulted on them. I know that a lot of work went into these bills but they do not represent improvements. They deny what has been given already in terms of customs and rights and, I suggest, they expose the rather precarious nature of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. I think it is a point which you will wish to consider very carefully; it is one of national interest with which you must be vitally concerned. It is a matter of what meaning should be symbolized by our flag, and we have had a lot of discussion about flags. What is symbolized by the flag, I suggest, is perhaps more important than the flag itself. Canadian sovereignty in the provinces is polarized between the provincial and federal aspects. There is a balance, a tension, a healthy dynamism in this polarization. We miss it in the north. We are the less Canadian for lack of it. We are, in this respect, deprived of problems, I know, but also of that healthy interaction which stimulates real growth.