

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

**The Chairman:** In my opinion, the hon. member is straying from the item under discussion when he deals with this matter.

**Mr. Pigeon:** I shall have the opportunity to come back to it later on.

(Text):

**The Chairman:** Shall vote 650 carry?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Before the vote passes, could the minister tell us what items are comprised in here. Is this wholly for housing?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The item you are referring to is—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No. 650.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Yes, this is to provide for the low cost housing program, in this instance for the Yukon territory.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** This vote is entirely for the Yukon? I think the minister said that part of it was in Mackenzie River, but that may be the main vote.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is for the Northwest Territories as a whole.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Yes, the Northwest Territories as a whole, plus the Yukon.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Could the minister say in what places this is being carried out.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** This development program applies to the whole northern area of Canada, where formerly the native population was nomadic and in the literal sense they were hopping from igloo to igloo—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Without roads.

**Mr. Dinsdale:**—to quote a classical phrase. The igloo was quite a useful form of temporary accommodation; but once industrial activity and development makes possible the establishment of permanent settlements, the igloo is no longer a suitable kind of housing accommodation. This situation has created a very urgent demand for minimum standard housing for the people of the north and this program is going forward in every community that requires this type of housing.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Could the minister say whether any of this housing is provided for Indians, or does his colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, have a separate program?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, in view of his former responsibilities in these matters, would be aware that Indian affairs

[Mr. Pigeon.]

are handled by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in the north as well as other parts of Canada.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Yukon.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is only true to a limited extent, because the minister will recall—

**The Chairman:** Order. I recognized the hon. member for Yukon.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I was replying to an observation made to me by the minister.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I believe I was on my feet first.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If that is the wish of the Chair, I will resume my seat.

**The Chairman:** If the hon. member for Yukon wishes to yield the floor in order that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate may finish his observation, he may do so; but before the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate had risen I had already recognized the hon. member for Yukon and the floor is his unless he yields it.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I wished to speak on the same subject, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to say that the program of low cost housing in the Yukon territory as provided for under this supplementary is equally as applicable to the Indian people of the Yukon as it is to other residents.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is in direct contradiction of what the minister said.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It fills a gap that was very sadly overlooked during the 22 years of the previous administration. The program is already in operation in the Northwest Territories and is progressing quite well in the Yukon. It will provide low cost homes for people in all parts of the territory—indeed for all peoples in all parts of the territories—where such a program was previously completely unavailable.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am glad, Mr. Chairman, that you allowed the hon. member for the Yukon to correct what the minister has said. The minister said that the Indians were not covered by this program but came under the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The hon. member for the Yukon promptly got up and corrected the minister's statement. He said these houses were available to Indians. I do not know which of the two hon. members is right, but they cannot both be right.

**Mr. Nielsen:** On a question of privilege—

**The Chairman:** I think the hon. member is rising on a question of privilege.